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SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

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NEW ROUND OF NUCLEAR ARMS TALKS OPENS IN GENEVA

LD231204 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Geneva April 23 TASS -- Aleksey Obukhov, ambassador at large, deputy leader of the USSR delegation at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms, met Ambassador Maynard Glittman here today thus starting a new round of talks for the group on medium-range missiles.

The task before the group is to prepare a joint draft treaty on the eliminiation of medium-range missiles of the USSR and the USA in Europe in accordance with the formula agreed upon at the Soviet-American summit meeting in Reykjavik.

Reagan Comments

PM240937 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "Geneva: Another Round"]

[Text] Washington, 23 Apr -- President Reagan made a special statement today on the Geneva talks.

The United States, his written statement says, is returning to the talks determined to develop the progress achieved at Secretary of State G. Shultz' meetings in Moscow last week. Although a number of central problems need resolving and much remains to be discussed at the talks, the prospects for an agreement on medium-range weapons have improved.

The document notes that the basic formula for an agreement on medium-range weapons was discussed at the Soviet-U.S. summit in Reykjavik. The statement says that the problem of operational and tactical missiles remains one of the main unresolved issues. During U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz' recent meetings in Moscow the Soviet side expounded with the utmost clarity its position envisaging the holding of separate talks on operational and tactical missiles, assuming that they will result in the total elimination of these missiles on a global basis. The U.S. Administration, the document says, is continuing "close consultations" with the United States' NATO allies on this issue.

Speaking on the same day on a USIA Worldnet television network program, G. Shultz noted "certain advances on the question of operational and tactical missiles." At the present time, he said, the United States, together with its allies, "is in the middle of the process of studying" the latest Soviet proposals in this sphere and "will be responding to them." The secretary of state did stress, however, that even if a Soviet-U.S. agreement is concluded on eliminating medium-range weapons the United States will continue to maintain an "awe-inspiring" ["vnushayushcheye strakh"] nuclear presence in Europe.

REAGAN OPPOSES HOUSE AMENDMENTS ON DISARMAMENT

LD240620 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The House of Representatives of the United States Congress is debating two amendments to a military appropriations bill. One suggests honoring the SALT II Treaty; the other suggests banning almost all nuclear weapons tests.

Both amendments have already drawn approval from the Committee on Appropriations. House Speaker Jim Wright believes the House will approve both later this week. Similar proposals were discussed in the Congress of the previous composition. On demand of the United States President they were put off right before the Soviet-American summit in Reykjavik. The President claimed that Congress will hamper disarmament agreements if it adopts decisions on the SALT II Treaty and nuclear tests.

Then it became clear why the administration was objecting. At the end of last year the United States launched its 131st cruise-carrying B-52 bomber and then the 132d. Since the Salt II ceiling was thus exceeded, the Soviet Union took it as a violation of the treaty's key provisions. At the same time, the United States kept testing nuclear weapons, and frustrated the unilateral Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions, a moratorium that was in force for 1 and 1/2 years.

With the two amendments now before the House of Representatives, the White House is again alleging that their adoption will hamper talks. But if the talks are to be successful, the existing agreements must be boosted, not destroyed. The United States must show action on its declared readiness to meet the Soviet initiatives halfway. When Washington announced the introduction of its 131st bomber, thus inflating the SALT II ceiling, the Soviet Union said it will steer clear of countermeasures and will not exceed the ceiling itself, in the hope that the United States will not violate the treaty again. And when the Soviet Union had to terminate its unilateral moratorium, as the United States continued testing nuclear weapons in Nevada, it was announced in Moscow that the Soviet Union is ready to stop its tests any time if the United States does the same.

House Approves Amendment

LD240912 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The House of Representatives of the American Congress, by a majority of votes, approved the amendment binding the Reagan administration to comply with the Soviet-American SALT II Treaty.

Last year the American administration announced it will not adhere to the limits provided by the treaty, and exceeded the ceiling for strategic bombers with cruise missiles. When voting on the bill for additional appropriations the congressmen also spoke out for banning underground nuclear tests exceeding a power capacity of 1 kiloton. A bill now goes to the upper house of the United States Congress. The White House warned officially that if the Senate also approves the bill, President Reagan will veto it.

U.S. EQUIPMENT ARRIVES AT TEST MONITORING SITE

LD241024 Moscow TASS in English 0938 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS -- U.S. Equipment has been delivered to the seismic station Jaysbay in Kazakhstan (a Soviet Asian Republic) to conduct the second stage of the joint Soviet-American scientific experiment of monitoring nuclear testing. The experiment is being carried out in keeping with an agreement between the Academcy of Sciences of the USSR and the U.S. Nation Resources Defence Committee, the newspaper TRUD said today. Seismographers are to be planted in three stations in Karkaralinsk, Karasu and Bayanaul at a depth of 100 metres. This will eliminate the imapct of possible natural distortions and ensure full control.

Dr Holley Eisler, a seismologist of California University, told a correspondent of the newspaper TRUD that peoples should live in peace, therefore she is taking part in the experiment. She noted that the joint experiment is not so much known in the USA as it is in the USSR, since the U.S. press prefers to pass it over in silence. Here we established full mutual understanding with the Soviet colleagues. We have been allowed into the test range area, but those who are preparing for war will never do so.

The preliminary results of the joint work have shown that there are no problems from the technical viewpoint involved in the international monitoring of nuclear tests, Holley Eisler said in conlusion.

REAGAN HOPEFUL OF MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE ACCORD

LD231611 Moscow TASS in English 1534 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 23 TASS -- TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev reports:

President Ronald Reagan met leaders of the U.S. Congress in the White House Wednesday. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger were present at the meeting.

House of Representatives Speaker James Wright informed those present about the outcome of his trip to the USSR and the discussion in Moscow of issues pertaining to nuclear arms limitation.

In a talk with journalists he noted that the proposal on shorter-range missiles made by the Soviet Union demonstrated the USSR's sincere wish to conclude an agreement on medium-range missiles and expressed the view that accepting this proposal was in line with the U.S. interests.

The President refrained from the commentaries on the Soviet Union's latest proposals. Prior to his meeting with the leaders of Congress, he expressed the hope, however, that the process of talks will be kept going and would lead to results substantial to all of them.

White House official spokesman Marlin Fitzwater called the USSR's proposal on shorter-range missiles very interesting. He said the administration continued consultations with the NATO allies and a final decision on the U.S. stand would not be made until they were over.

A two-day meeting of top NATO officials was held in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, within the framework of these consultations. As was already reported, the U.S. delegation was headed by such strong supporter of the touch course towards the USSR as Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle.

ARMY PAPER ON U.S. REACTION TO ARMS PROPOSALS

PM240943 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Apr 87 First Edition p 3

["Military-Political Review" by observer Manki Ponomarev: "Time Moves On"]

[Text] The prestigious West German magazine DER SPIEGEL was obliged to acknowledge in a recent issue that "Only 44 percent of FRG Citizens trust the U.S. President when he says he desires disarmament while 60 percent trust the Soviet party leader here."

The fact is undoubtedly highly noteworthy, especially when you consider that the FRG population is constantly subject to the massive influence of bourgeois propaganda and often has no opportunity to obtain at first hand a full idea of Soviet foreign policy and the USSR's peace-loving initiatives. But the strength of the Soviet Union's active and constructive policy is such that it overcomes all the obstacles being put in its path at this crucial moment in the international situation's development. The times in which we live are posing the most difficult and sometimes perplexing questions concerning the fate of the world and mankind's future. A solution to them can only be found on the basis of new political thinking and abandonment of established stereotypes. This is precisely the approach being shown by the Soviet Union in international affairs, and the peoples thoroughout the world are bound to see this. That is why the authority of the USSR and its policy is steadily growing and why the policy pursued by the ruling U.S. circles and their devotees in other Western countries -- a policy of force, confrontation, and imperial ambitions -- appears increasingly unacceptable.

Events of recent days -- M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Czechoslovakia and his speeches there and U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz' visit to Moscow, the talks held during the visit, and Soviet leaders' conversations with him -- have illuminated all this with particular clarity.

How is the Soviet Union acting? True to its objective of ridding the world of the nuclear threat for present and future generations, it is demostrating in action its determination to find a solution to what would seem to be the most difficult problems obstructing the way to this objective. Is any more convincing confirmation of this needed than the USSR's decision to single out from among the other questions that of completely eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe and immediately concluding a separate agreement on it? After all, this proposal offers a real opportunity to remove a whole class of nuclear weapons from European soil and begin the process of eliminating them.

But our country did not stop there. To facilitiate the conclusion of an agreement on medium-range missiles, the Soviet Union also expressed its readiness to resolve in a constructive way the problem of operational and tactical missles. To this end it is proposed that discussion begin on the question of reducing and subsequently elimiminating missiles sited in Europe that have a range of 500-1,000 km. Moreover, th sides would commit themselves to refrain from increasing the number of such missiles for the duration of the talks. Then, in conversation with G. Shultz in the Kremlin, M.S. Gorbachev expressed his readiness to write into an agreement on medium-range missiles a Soviet commitment to completely eliminate within a relatively short and clearly designated period its operational and tactical missiles on the European Continent. The USSR indeed went even further and stated its readiness to eliminate also battlefield tactical missiles.

Why has the author deemed it necessary to dwell on this point in such detail? First, because it graphically illustrates the Soviet side's resolve to work to realize the great opportunities for the preparation of specific agreements on these questions that worry all mankind that were opened up by the foreign policy initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union. The USSR, afterall, proceeds from the premise that it is possible to reach agreement with the United States on the problem of medium-range missiles in linkage with operational and tactical missiles and expresses its readiness to destroy this type of nuclear weapon unilaterally over the course of roughly 12 months, thus providing one more opportunity to effect a crucial breakthrough in international relations. Second, the approach of the U.S. and Soviet sides to the problem serves as the touchstone for their approach to mutual relations in general and international politics as a whole. And this, ultimately, is what is of paramount and of greatest importance, for time moves on. It urgently demands solutions.

But how strange the picture turns out to be, although it cannot, of course, be called unexpected. The Soviet Union has only to take one step toward the U.S. position and the United States immediately takes one step, only backward, sometimes rejecting what it previously zealously advocated and described as an absolute condition for the achievement of accords with the USSR. This is what has occurred, for example, with the zero option on medium-range missiles. The Soviet Union had only to agree to it and loud voices were immediately raised across the Atlantic about its unacceptability to the United States and about the need to leave a certain number of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe or, in the last resort, convert the Pershings so that they would, as it were, cease to be medium-range missiles but could very quickly become so again. Or consider operational and tactical missiles. The West has dinned into everyone's ears that the USSR has superiority in this kind of weapon, but when the Soviet side stated its readiness to commit itself to eliminating its operational and tactical missiles in Europe, the United States began to insist on the right to produce these weapons and site them in Europe in numbers roughly equal to those that the USSR will have after the elimination of the operational and tactical missiles withdrawn from Czechoslovakia and the GDR.

This -- to put it mildly -- highly original, or more precisely, very, very dangerous position is on the whole quite apparent. The United States is persistently seeking to get the Soviet Union to destroy unilaterally particular kinds of its weapons -- operational and tactical missiles, for example. The United States, at the same time will deploy such weapons and upgrade, in this case, its operational and tactical missiles. After this, how is one to regard President Reagan's desire in the area of Soviet-U.S. relations, as expressed in a recent article in the LOS ANGELES TIMES, "to achieve arms reductions that are monitorable and lead to stability, with the emphasis on monitorability?" What kind of "stabilization" do we have here if Washington intends to make up for the alleged enormous superiority of the USSR in shorter-range [menshaya dalnost] missiles in Europe by another arms-upgrading. After all, even according to American figures, as cited in THE WASHINGTON POST, the United States has 5,000 nuclear weapon units in Europe, which far exceeds the Pentagon's calculations of Soviet tactical nuclear arms in the region.

By the way, regarding the "monitorability" R. Reagan so stressed, it has long been a cliche of Western propaganda that it is impossible to achieve serious results at talks with the USSR on arms limitation because the Soviet side rejects verification measures, but here is how the business of verification really stands. In the opinion of the USSR, verification to ensure observance of future treaties is one of the most important means of ensuring security. Therefore our country intends to adopt the most vigorous stance on verification and to demand monitoring and inspection everywhere -- at the places where missiles are dismantled, at the places where they are destroyed [likvidatsiya], at ranges, and at military bases, including those in third countries, and at depots and plants, irrespective of whether they are private or belong to the state. What about the United States, then? There they are now clamoring increasingly loudly that...such verification is unacceptable and that it is impossible to agree with the Soviet standpoint on this score.

The new Soviet initiatives include not just the proposals on medium-range, operational and tactical, or tactical missiles. The Soviet leadership has proposed to the U.S. Administration that they begin drawing up "key provisions" about further talks regarding strategic offensive armaments and the operation of the ABM Treaty and nuclear tests which, together with the signing of a treaty on medium-range missiles, could be the subject of a summit accord and provide the basis for the preparation of legally binding agreements between the USSR and the United States. A refined compromise proposal designed to find a solution to complex problems involving SDI has also been submitted. Assent has thus been given for researching the ABM sphere but limited to that carried out in laboratories.

But the United States -- and G. Shultz' visit to the USSR showed this unequivocally -- is not ready to respond constructively to the series of specific Soviet proposals. While verbally acknowledging the need to solve crucial security problems -- and who in our time could deny such? -- the U.S. leadership prefers to resort to all manner of ploys and subterfuges. A characteristic moment occurred during the news conference in Moscow. In his reply to a question from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA asking why Washington could not give a clear "yes" to the new Soviet proposals, which correspond to what the United States and its allies were themselves demanding not so long ago, G. Shultz said that as a member of NATO the United States and its administration could not give a response without prior consultations with the allies. I think it difficult to regard the secretary of state's words here as anything other than yet another attempt to avoid giving a specific and constructive answer to the Soviet initiatives -- particularly as it is reported from Burssels that these consultations will last 1 or even 2 months and moreover that in the course of them Shultz is insisting on retaining the NATO doctrine of "flexible response," which envisages the use of nuclear weapons. According to him, this strategy "will be retained irrespective of any decision NATO makes on medium-range or operational and tactical missiles."

The conclusions drawn by the U.S. Administration from the Soviet proposals expounded during the talks with G. Shultz in Moscow will determine whether it will be possible to find a solution soon to the major questions of disarmament, particularly medium-range and shorter-range missiles, and change the situation in Soviet-U.S. relations and international affairs for the better.

But time does not stand still. Time demands an answer to these burning questions that affect the very destiny of human civilization. Every day of delay threatens new dangers. Every day the enemies of peace and progress heap up new obstacles to the longed-for goal of all people of good will -- a life without nuclear or other kinds of weapons of mass destruction and a safe life for our generation and those to come.

ZHOLKVER COMMENTS ON CURRENT ARMS TALKS ROUND

LD232307 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1615 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Aleksandr Zholkver commentary from the "International Diary" program presented by Igor Surguchev]

[Text] [Surguchev] Today another round, the eighth, of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons opened in Geneva. A group on medium-range missiles in Europe was the first to start work. One must note that there is a favorable situation now for reaching accords on this issue. As is known, the Soviet Union has expressed its preparedness to eliminate not only medium-range nuclear missiles but also operational and tactical missiles on the European Continent, with the purpose of concluding the agreement as soon as possible. Now it is up to the United States. By the way, virtually on the eve of the resumption of the Geneva talks, President Reagan met U.S. congressmen in Washington.

The issue was prospects for Soviet-U.S. agreements regarding arms reductions. What has this discussion shown? I will ask our political observer Aleksandr Zholkver to reply to this question:

[Zholkver] The White House officially announced that during the meeting you mentioned, the President was in an optimistic, yet realistic mood. It is not clear, though, why these words should be set off against each other. Frankly speaking, I was put on my guard by another thing: In recent days, many voices could be heard among those close to the President and in Congress urging him not to hurry and to thoroughly think it all over; and by and large, there are quite a few barriers in the way of an agreement, and one does not know if it will be possible to overcome them.

Certain people in Washington started talking about difficulties of monitoring [kontrol] while emphasizing in every possible way that the issue of liquidating nuclear missiles in Europe is for the Europeans themselves to resolve. In short, the old game of passing the buck is starting all over again. In reality -- and this has been admitted by many major politiians, from the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives to the FRG minister of foreign affars -- there is now a truly historical chance for eliminating a whole class of nuclear weapons on European Continent.

I will recall that our country suggested liquidating all the Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles in Europe and examininig and solving the problem of tactical nuclear systems. By the way, we are putting forward the most strict system of monitoring [kontrol] the fulfillment of all those measures, up to on-site inspection [inspektsiya]. One should say that our proposals were met with optimism in Europe indeed.

I will mention the peace marches that have only just ended in many countries of Western Europe. Their participants -- as writes, for example Bonn's GENERAL-ANZEIGER -- have addressed Western governments with an appeal to postively answer Gorbachev's recent proposal on disarmament. But one cannot fail to see other things: As Westfaelische RUNDESCHAU, another Western German newspaper, points out, leaders of Western countries seem to be afraid even of their own previous disarmament proposals. The more wide-scale Gorbachev's initiatives become, the deeper they are hiding in a shelter. I would add that shells are being fired from those shelters at the idea of a nuclear-free Europe itself.

U.S. General Rogers, NATO's commander in chief, calls for deploying U.S. short-range nuclear missiles in Europe. The FRG Military Department plans to alter the U.S. Pershing missiles that are already here into short-range missiles, while in Paris and London, according to the local press, plans for joint work with the objective of developing [sozdaniye] air-based cruise missiles with nuclear warheads are being discussed. After all this, one can easily understand the West German Social-Democratic weekly VORWAERTS when it writes that a group of hawks is preparing a stab in the back and is trying to be both realistic and optimistic. The chances for nuclear disarmament in Europe are now as favorable as ever, and it would be simply unforgivable to lose them.

EXPERTS DISCUSS BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN GENEVA

PM221339 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Correspondent V. Kuznetsov dispatch: "To Establish Reliable Barriers"]

[Text] Geneva -- A conference of scientific and technical experts of the states that are party to the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological Weapons has completed its work in the Palais des Nations.

The experts' work was of great significance: They discussed the erection of further barriers in the way of such terrible mass destruction weapons as bacteriogical weapons. Instances of the use of bacteriological means to spread infection among the population have long been known. The Kaiser's Germany intended to use bacteriological weapons on a large scale at the end of World War I, and Hitler's Wehrmacht also made intensive preparations for bacteriological warfare.

The Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological Weapons, drawn up within the framework of the Geneva Disarmament Conference, came into force in 1975. The present conference of experts adopted a report reflecting agreement on a number of practical measures aimed at strengthening trust among the states that are party to the convention and broadening cooperation in the area of the peaceful use of the achievements of biological science. Specific accords were reached on exchanging information on the activities of a certain circle of scientific research establishments, notifying outbreaks of infectious diseases and epidemics that deviate from the norm, and also developing contacts among scientists.

At the experts' conference the representatives of the Netherlands, Ireland, and other countries advocated broadening the exchange of information on a wide range of scientific and applied activity in the spheres of bioengineering and genetic engineering. Such measures would prepare conditions for strengthening the system of verification under the convention.

Many public organizations and prominent politicians in the West are voicing alarm over the Pentagon's recently increased interest in developments in the use of microorganisms for military purposes. Such U.S. research is conducted not only by the military and by laboratories located in major scientific centers but also under contracts in many universities. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL reported this recently, emphasizing that 23 U.S. universities are engaged in activity directly or indirectly violating the convention.

The Soviet Union advanced far-reaching proposals in Geneva to strengthen the convention. The USSR delegation proposed agreeing on the circle of the participant states' corporate bodies which own scientific research establishments covered by the exchange of information, including government organizations, private firms and corporations, international consortiums, daughter companies, branches, also private persons, and so forth. The Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that all the parties to the convention will ensure its strict observance by means of adopting corresponding national legal measures. Therefore it was proposed that the UN Department on Disarmament Questions prepare for dissemination at the third convention review conference a special report containing an analysis of the legislative, administrative, and other measures taken by the participant states to rule out all violations of the convention.

The USSR's proposals must form a basis for continuing the multilateral businesslike and productive dialogue within the framework of the Disarmament Conference.

ALLEGED U.S. BIOLOGICAL WAR PREPARATIONS DETAILED

WA151110 Moscow APN MILITARY BULLETIN in English No 4, Feb 87 pp 9-12

[Article attributed to "MILITARY BULLETIN's own information": "Fifteen Years After the Signing of the Biological Convention of 1972 the Preparations for Bacteriological War Are Going on in the USA"]

[Text] Having joined the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the USA did not stop developing new generations of bacteriological and toxin weapons.

The main US Army centre at which bacteriological (biological) weapons are specially developed operates on the basis of the Dugway testing ground. The Baker biological laboratory functions on its territory, dozens of kilometres away from the military dwelling township of the testing ground and at a sizable distance from the technological centre in Dutt. At the beginning of the 1970s 440 specialists from other US centres of the development of bacteriological weapons - the special bacteriological laboratories of Fort Detrick (Maryland) and the Pine Bluff arsenal of the US Army (Arkansas) were transferred to the Baker laboratory. It continually builds up the equipment of its units. In the past two-three years alone 300 million dollars were allocated to it for purchasing a large-size chamber making it possible to experiment with the pathogenes of particularly dangerous infections and to carry out research into bacteriological (biological) weapons and to test samples of them. In 1985 the journal of the American Chemical Society wrote that the Baker laboratory did not need such large-size equipment for testing means of defence and that the aforesaid chamber had been supplied first of all for accomplishing a set of tasks directly relating to the development of bacteriological weapons which are used in practice. It was reported that 50 horses had simultaneously died near that laboratory from a rare African disease. The pathogene of this disease could get into the environment only as a result of the large-scale tests conducted at the testing ground.

The development of bacteriological weapons continues also in the Fort Detrick military garrison, despite the switching of its laboratories to peaceful research which was announced long ago by Richard Nixon. The military-medical research institute of infectious diseases situated in that garrison pays considerable attention to achieving great viability of the viruses of Rift Valley Fever (the strain was isolated during the epidemics in Egypt in 1977-1978), Japanese encephalitis B, Q Fever and Lassa Fever in the aerosol condition. In natural conditions these infections are spread by carriers - mosquitoes and arthropoda.

Analogous research is carried out by the Baker laboratory which studied the stability of the aerosol reoviruses of types 1, 2 and 3 which affect man's respiratory and digestive tracts.

Research into viral aerosols is conducted at the laboratories of the scientific-technical and testing base of the US Navy in Oakland (California), at North Carolina University and the University of California. Experiments are held to find out the lethal doses of various pathogenes, including Lassa virus.

The US military laboratories conduct research into aerogenous infection of animals with cholera and diphtheritic toxins and staphylococcus enterotoxins. Such a way of intoxication is not found in natural conditions.

The studies of the mechanisms of transmission of viral infections by mosquitoes, arthropoda and migrant birds continue, and the most suitable mosquitoes are selected.

The gene engineering methods are used to inculcate in saprophyte microorganisms, such as the colon bacillus, an ability to produce dangerous toxins. It was reported that a pathogenic strain of the colon bacillus has been developed in the USA through the introduction of the genetic information of Flexner Shigella into the cells of the colon bacillus.

The aforesaid examples show that a great part of the work with microorganisms carried out at the military and civilian laboratories of the USA has nothing to do with health protection. This research is conducted only with a view to developing bacteriological weapons of a new generation.

The Pentagon does not make a secret of the fact that it carries out some activities in violation of the Biological Convention. In the general budget of medical studies the planning and financing administration of the US Defence Department has a special item of expenditures on "defensive biological systems of weapons". The US Defense Department issues manuals on combat uses of bacteriological weapons and the rules of its storage and transportation. A military school for training specialists in the field of bacteriological weapons exists in the USA.

Production capacities, fit for operation, for manufacturing bacteriological weapons, including ferments, equipping lines and cryogenic installations in the system of underground storages, are preserved on the territory of the Army arsenal in Pine Bluff.

During the preparation of the second conference of the states-parties to the Biological Convention held in Geneva in September 1986 the Soviet Union voluntarily made a statement that it had not transferred bacteriological and toxin weapons, as well as information on the technology of its production, to third countries. At the same time it was stated that the USSR did not conduct research or tests of biological weapons on the territory of the allied or other countries. The USA did not make such a statement. It finances biological research conducted in Taiwan, South Africa, Pakistan and some other countries in execution of the Pentagon's order. For all that, the Bacteriological Convention to a certain extent restrains the development of biological weapons. This explains the clearly visible desire of the US military to lessen the significance of the Convention, to prompt the idea that it is ineffective. For instance, Douglas Feith, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, called the Convention false publicity of the idea that the problem of prohibition of bacteriological weapons can allegedly be resolved.

CEMA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES COOPERATION TARGETS

LD201803 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS -- The implementation of the comprehensive programme for scientific and technological progress of the CEMA countries up to the year 2000, which was adopted a little more than a year ago, has served as a kind of a catalyst for accelerating the quest for and broad use of new progressive forms of cooperation of the fraternal countries, said Vyacheslav Sychev, CEMA secretary, addressing a press conference today. The development of direct ties between research organizations and plants of the socialist countries is broadening, work is being intensified to set up joint ventures.

Vyacheslav Sychev recalled that the attainment of all targets of the comprehensive programme will provide for the CMEA countries more than fifteen hundred types of new equipment, nearly 500 progressive technologies and more than 400 new materials. At the same time, together with other achievements in science and technology they will make it possible to, at least, double the productivity of socialized labour in the CMEA member-countries.

National systems for the control of implementation of the comprehensive programme have been set up at the CMEA member-countries. The commitments of the countries stemming from the programme targets have been included into the five-year national economic plan, the necessary resources have been set aside and financing sources determined.

The implementation of a programme of such a large scale, naturally, involves difficulties, and outstanding issues remain. The deepening of socialist economic integration calls for the perfection of the whole CMEA activities, Vyacheslav Sychev stressed. Specific measures have been prepared for the reorganization of the CMEA activities. This serious and difficult work is to be completed already in the current year. Its essence is transition to far-reaching co-production and drawing manufacturers into that process.

CEMA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETS 22-23 APR

LD231907 Moscow TASS in English 1853 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- The 36th meeting of the CEMA Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation took place in Moscow on April 22-23. The committee concentrated on the implementation of the comprehensive program for the scientific and technological progress of the CMEA member countries to the year 2000. Programs of cooperation were drawn up and approved, work is being done to formalize the mutual contractual obligations of the sides under those programs, and the results obtained so far are being introduced in production. The committee reviewed joint projects in biotechnology, the further assistance of CMEA member countries to Vietnam and Mongolia with a view to accelerating their scientific and technological progress, and other issues of multilateral scientific and technological cooperation.

PYADYSHEV FOREIGN MINISTRY NEWS CONFERENCE 23 APR

Geneva Talks

LD231322 Moscow TASS in English 1254 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- The Soviet delegation has the firm mandate immediately, from the first day of the Geneva talks, to start jointly with the U.S. delegation to draw up concrete agreements, Boris Pyadyshev, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists today. He noted that those agreements should provide for the elimination of all the Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe already within the next five years, with only 100 warheads on such missiles preserved each in the Asian part of the USSR and in U.S. territory, and also envision the elimination of all the Soviet and American shorter-range missiles in Europe simultaneously. The Soviet spokesman drew the journalists' attention to a new element of the Soviet position: Talks are proposed on shorter-range missiles also in the east of the USSR and in U.S. territory.

These agreements also should provide for the establishment of the strictest possible system of verification, to the point of on-site inspections, to guarantee the sides' compliance with their obligations.

These are the clear-cut and explicit positions with which the Soviet delegation is starting work in Geneva, Pyadyshev said.

He noted one more aspect, not related directly to the current Geneva talks. The USSR proposes that the question of nuclear systems in Europe, including tactical missiles, be examined and resolved in separate multilateral talks in accordance with the Budapest initiative of the USSR and the other Warsaw Treaty countries.

We stand for finding solutions to these extremely important questions as soon as possible. We are closely analyzing relevant developments in Washington and keep record of statements of "cautious optimism" with regard to the possibility of concluding agreements on longer-range and shorter-range missiles already this year. The Soviet spokesman noted that the manoeuvres of those who were opposed to the agreements were not going unnoticed either. Their arguments are clearly losing their substance and forcefulness and becoming empty declarations.

We understand the U.S. need to consult the NATO allies on the matter of eliminating nuclear systems in the European Continent. But it is important that this natural process should not amount to passing responsibility back and forth and become a barrier on the road to agreements.

Al-Asad Visit, Arms Control

LD231914 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] A briefing for newsmen on the agenda of the visit to our country by Hafiz al-Asad took place today in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center. The key international problems, first and foremost the issue of a Mideast settlement and an international conference on the Middle East, will be the subject of the forthcoming talks. Great attention will be devoted to the issues of bilateral relations between the USSR and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The attention of Soviet and foreign correspondents was drawn also to the Soviet-U.S. talks concerning the questions of medium-range missiles within the framework of the talks on nuclear and space weapons, which have resumed in Geneva.

It was reported at the briefing that in recent days, special Soviet representatives visited Warsaw Pact states and Yugoslavia. The leaders of the fraternal socialist states gave a high appraisal during discussions to the initiatives of the Soviet leadership, which aim to liberate Europe from nuclear missiles. They expressed full support for and endorsed the Soviet proposals on eliminating medium-range and operational and tactical missiles from Europe.

The meeting was conducted by Comrade Pyadyshev, first deputy chief of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Department.

Nuclear Test Pact

LD231257 Moscow TASS in English 1243 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- At a briefing for Soviet and foreign newsmen held here today a question was put to a USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman regarding the idea of reaching an agreement between the USSR and the United States on conducting underground nuclear explosions at each other's test sites.

The truth is that this idea was put forward during the Soviet-U.S. negotiations with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Moscow, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said. But this idea was not specifically discussed and the more so no concrete agreement on this score was reached. To put it shortly, this idea remains an idea as yet.

Ties With Israel

LD231408 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- During the session of the Council of the Socialist International in Rome, which discussed the situation in the Middle East, the representative of the CPSU Central Committee, Karen Brutents, had contacts with participants in the session, among them Shimon Peres. However, this is no evidence of any "thaw" in relations between the USSR and Israel, Boris Pyadyshev, a spokesman for the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the USSR, stated at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists today.

He noted that the meeting had taken place in the context of general contacts with delegates from other countries. Shimon Peres was firmly told about the Soviet people's solidarity with the people of Palestine, and the Israeli tactic of terror and repression against the Palestinian population was condemned. Emphasis was laid on the need to implement the idea of a peaceful conference on the Middle East.

Shimon Peres was also firmly told that an improvement in Soviet-Israeli relations was only possible if progress was made towards settlement in the Middle East and if Israel renounced its policy of aggression and violence against the Arabs.

It is absolutely clear, Pyadyshev stressed, that the contact with Shimion Peres was merely a diplomatic extension of our consistent struggle on the Arabs' side for a genuine and fair settlement in the Middle East.

Answering the question about a visit of a group of Soviet consular officials to Israel, Pyadyshev said that it had not taken place although agreement to this affect remained in force. We are conducting preparations for the visit, he noted. The purpose of the visit is to study at first hand questions related to the presence of Soviet citizens in Israel and to Soviet property in that country, the spokesman pointed out.

Regional Issues

LD231303 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- In the past several days some officials in Washington are making statements containing an inaccurate and sometimes even a distorted interpretation of the Soviet position on regional issues, a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists today was told by Boris Pyadyshev, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Moreover, he added, references are being made to the discussion of this group of questions during the recent talks conducted by the United States Secretary of State George Shultz in Moscow.

The Soviet Union is convinced that the American approach is the main brake on normalisation and political settlement in the most acute issue today -- the situation around Afghanistan. This was stressed in no uncertain terms at the talks with the United States Secretary of State George Shultz. We believe that this evaluation of the American approach is the more correct that the DRA Government's programme of national reconciliation creates a real basis for stabilising the situation and stopping the bloodshed in the country, while the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva have reached the level when the drawing closer of positions becomes real. [sentence as received] George Shultz was told that the Americans would not succeed either in overthrowing the lawful government in Kabul nor in "exhausting" the USSR by means of the Afghan conflict.

It should be clear that if the administration persists in its desire to keep the Afghan question in the channel of war, of a "military solution", this will have the most serious consequences both for the United States and for those who blindly follow in its wake.

The United States Administration, and this was also stated, still has a possibility to rethink its policy in respect of Afghanistan, take into account the new realities and join the efforts to liquidate this seat of tension.

In another part of the world, Central America, the United States continues the impermissible escalation of tension around Nicaragua, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said further. The attention of the United States secretary of state was also drawn to this.

The Americans are actually balancing there on the brink of a large-scale armed aggression. Nicaragua is a freedomloving, independent country, we told George Shultz. It will not be left standing all by itself in face of the American aggressors, the necessary assistance has been given to it and will be given to it. At the same time confrontation and the more so a war in Central America is not a choice of the Sandinistas and of course not a choice of the USSR.

The American leadership was advised through the secretary of state to give up the confrontational, militaristic tendency, to stop blocking the actually existing mechanism of a peaceful and mutually acceptable settlement in that area. The Contadora process, the relevant proposals by Nicaragua to resume a direct dialogue with the United States provide a basis for this.

It is always firmly stressed in contacts with the American side that responsibility for the continuing tension in a whole number of regions rests with the United States, the Soivet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Linnas Trial

LD231403 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- Fifteen years have passed since the Soviet court sentenced to capital punishment the war criminal Karl Linnas. The question of the execution of the sentence and that of the legal qualification of the additional circumstance of his criminal activities which could come to light in the years that have elapsed since that time are to be resolved by the court. This has been stated by Boris Pyadyshev, spokesman of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Answering questions of journalists at a briefing held here today, he recalled that Karl Linnas, former head of the Tartu concentration camp, had personally participated in mass executions of prisoners. In 1962 he was tried in absentia in the USSR and sentenced to capital punishement. According to the fundamentals of Soviet penal code, the statute of limitation is not to be applied to war criminals. This legal practice is typical of many other countries as well, the spokesman of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Boris Pyadyshev explained that the Soviet authorities would identify Linnas in accordance with the formal court procedure and would take necessary decisions concerning the execution of the sentence. Linnas has the right to ask for pardon. In case he files an application to this effect, it will be considered by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

MOSCOW COMMENTS ON U.S. 'TRADE WAR' WITH JAPAN

Polyakovskiy on 'Crude Tactics'

LD221107 Moscow TASS in English 1003 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 22 TASS -- TASS correspondent Oleg Polyakovskiy reports:

The crude tactics of arm-twisting used by Americans to wrest Japanese concessions in trade has worked.

Japan's visiting special envoy Shintaro Abe, former Japanese foreign minister, said after White House talks Tuesday that Tokyo was prepared to throw the door ever more widely to U.S. exports.

Japan's duty was to do whatever was expected of her, he explained diplomatically.

It is yet unknown which specific measures to give American companies a larger foothold in the Japanese market he told President Reagan and ranking administration officials about, but they clearly want more.

Marlin Fitzwater, special assistant to he President and deputy press secretary, said Tuesday it was unlikely that the trade sanctions announced against Japan would be cancelled before Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's visit to the United States in the end of this month.

Their annulment was the main aim of Abe's talks, but the Japanese premier appears to be in for a different kind of "gift" here.

The House of Representatives is going before his arrival to enact a trade bill providing for even tougher sanctions against Japan and other countries enjoying a big surplus in trade with the United States.

A similar bill is being considered by the Senate.

Congress, which differs with the Reagan administration on many other issues, does not have any particular disagreements with the White House on this matter.

Glukhov on 'Aggravation'

OW181413 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Yuriy Glukhov commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Government has decided to impose 100 percent tariffs on Japan's semiconductors, microcircuits, and commodities using them, beginning on 17 April. Radio Moscow economic commentator Yuriy Glukhov writes in this regard:

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry warned Japan would scrap its semiconductor agreement with the United States if it takes this retaliatory step eventually. These fierce mutual responses between the two partners and competitors attest to a new trade aggravation that has not been seen in the relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The liberal Democratic Party's Executive Council Chairman, Shintaro Abe is to fly to the United States as a special envcy. Toward the end of this month, Prime Minister Nakasone himself is scheduled to visit the United States. His visit aims to capitalize on the intimacy between President Reagan and Prime Minister Nakasone, widely publicized as the Ron-Yasu relationship. According to a KYODO dispatch from Washington on 14 April, however, Japanese diplomatic sources believe the prime minister's visit will bring no sudden change in the U.S. decision to impose 100 percent tariffs.

It is evident that the Japanese-U.S. trade imbalance stems from far more serious causes than export dumping. Therefore, it cannot be solved by artificial restraints on exports or appreciation of the yen. Needless to say, individual friendship between the leaders of the two countries will be of no use. The United States should not shift its responsibility for economic confusion onto Japan. Instead, it should consolidate its domestic structure. Will the new protectionist step prove useful, even in a minor way? It will not by any means. Let us recall the case of Japan's automobile exports.

Japan's so-called self-regulation resulted in the reduction of U.S. automobile production. On the other hand, Japanese automakers expanded their foundations in the United States, consequently further intensifying competition between Japanese and local enterprises. The Japanese measure thus produced a contrary effect.

After Japan took the self-regulatory measure, U.S. automakers -- instead of striving to enhance their competitiveness -- raised prices on their products and simply reduced production. In 1984 alone, the number of U.S. automakers' workshops decreased by 32,000 and their production by 300,000 cars. However, profits of monopolistic automobile enterprises increased by nearly $9 billion.

In this context, the recent decision by the U.S. Government has evoked opposition not only in Japan but also in the United States. Many people believe this U.S. step will deal a great blow not only to Japanese semiconductor producers but also to the U.S. electronics industry, which widely use Japanese-made equipment and computer components. This will lead to an increase in the prices of electronic products on the U.S. domestic market and to greater unemployment.

Needless to say, the U.S. protectionist step against Japanese commodities will have a more serious effect on Japan's export-related industries and, moreover, on the living conditions of workers in these industries' domains.

PRAVDA ON 'CONTRIBUTION' OF SPACE COOPERATION

PM221331 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[B. Tikhonov article: "Space for Peaceful Matters"]

[Text] On 15 April 1987 USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz signed the Agreement Between the USSR and the United States on Cooperation in the Investigation and Use of Space For Peaceful Purposes.

This cooperation occupies a special place in Soviet-U.S. relations. It may be stated without exaggeration that the first intergovernmental accords between our countries (the 1972 and 1977 agreements) in this sphere were the direct result and the concrete embodiment in practice of the process of easing international tension.

The whole world remembers the handshake exchanged by Soviet and U.S. cosmonauts 17 July 1975, when the Soviet and U.S. Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft docked in space and an international space crew was formed for the first time in human history. The "handshake in space" was a genuine symbol of detente and of all the best things achieved at that time in the cause of normalizing relations between our two countries. It attested that, given goodwill and consciousness of their responsibility, the USSR and the United States can find spheres for large-scale mutually advantageous cooperation, whose significance far transcends purely bilateral interests.

The Soviet Union is sincerely convinced of the need to ensure that space is used exclusively for peaceful purposes and serves the tasks of international cooperation. It would be a good thing for all other states involved in investigating and using extraterrestrial space to act in the spirit of the same conviction.

However, the SDI proclaimed by U.S. President R. Reagan, known throughout the world as the "Star Wars" program, is one of the factors materially complicating Soviet-U.S. relations and the situation in the world. The realization of that sinister program is fraught with the threat of transferring the arms race into space and turning the latter into a potential arena for armed conflict. The Soviet Union counters the arms race in space with the concept of building star peace. This concept is founded on the ideas of developing broad international cooperation as a real alternative to military programs.

The new Soviet-U.S. agreement points to the possibility and reality of sensible approaches to the problem of space. In its preamble the sides emphasized their desire to make the results achieved in the investigation and use of space for peaceful purposes serve the peoples of the two states and of the whole world. The agreement provides for the development of bilateral cooperation in research into the solar system, space astronomy and astrophysics, earth science, physics of solar-terrestrial links, and space biology and medicine. Mixed working groups will be set up in each of these areas, and it is proposed to implement joint measures within their framework. Some 16 specific cooperation projects have been outlined. They include research into determining the most promising sites for a landing on Mars, an exchange of scientific date on studies of the surface of Venus, space dust, meteorites, and lunar rock, the coordination of activities under the Soviet "Phobos" and "Vesta" projects and the U.S. "Mars-observer" project, the exchange of research in the sphere of radio astronomy, the coordination of work on studying global changes to the natural environment, cooperation under the program of biosatellites of the "Cosmos" series, and other measures.

There will be meetings of scientists and specialists and exchanges of delegations, and one side's researchers and specialists will participate in work being conducted by the other side. An understanding has been reached that the list of specific projects may be extended as the agreement is fulfilled (it is valid for 5 years, with the possibility of being extended), if the sides deem it mutually advantageous. It is also envisaged that the USSR and the United States will promote international cooperation in studying legal questions of mutual interest that might arise when investigating and using space for peaceful purposes.

The new Soviet-U.S. agreement is an earnest, promising contribution to strengthening the foundations of peaceful space. In his statement of 15 January 1986 M.S. Gorbachev emphasized: "It is our profound conviction that we must enter the third millennium not with the 'Star Wars' program but with large-scale projects for peaceful space exploration through the efforts of all mankind... This is one of the most important ways of ensuring progress on our whole planet and forming a reliable security system for all."

This is why our countries have taken an important joint step on this path by concluding the agreement. It ensures favorable preconditions for further progress in the same direction. "It is an agreement of the future," the Soviet foreign minister declared on signing the document.

I would like to hope that the reaching of a Soviet-U.S. accord on bilateral cooperation in peaceful space exploration will help us more quickly to find mutually acceptable approaches to the acute problems that remain unsolved at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms.

BEREZHKOV ON KIRKPATRICK'S VIEW OF 'SOVIET THREAT'

PM220909 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12 April 1987 First Edition carries on page 5 under the headline "New Era on the Scales of Logic" a 900-word reprint of a Jeane Kirkpatrick article in THE BOSTON GLOBE on a "dangerous new period" in international relations, when the "bold Gorbachev leadership" has taken the intiative, the United States has "weakened," and the Europeans are being asked to "risk their security" for the sake of the "risky game" of arms control. The article is accompanied by the following response by Valentin Berezhkov, chief editor of the journal SSHA: EKONOMIKA, POLITIKA, IDEOLOGIYA:

"One can agree with J. Francois-Poncet's arguments cited in Jeane Kirkpatrick's article that the world has now entered a 'new and much more dangerous period of international relations.' However, the interpretation of this fact by the veteran of French diplomacy -- an interpretation with which, judging by everything, Mrs Kirkpatrick agrees -- is a typical example of old thinking and adherence to the 'balance of power' and the false thesis of the 'Soviet threat.' Not wishing to come to terms with the fact that Soviet proposals have generated a broad response worldwide, Jeane Kirkpatrick asks with alarm: 'Does the Soviet Union under Gorbachev really control the international agenda? This question is posed straight after a warning about a 'European Munich.'

"Mrs Kirkpatrick can hardly be unaware of prewar history and everything linked with the shameful Munich deal. Of course, she knows British and French politicians sold out Czechoslovakia to Hitler in the expectation that he would then fulfill his promise to 'destroy bolshevism.' She must also know that at the time only the Soviet Union stated its readiness to help any country subjected to Hitlerite aggression and that this prevented France from refusing to fulfill its previous commitments. The Munich treachery did not save the Western democracies. They were among the first victims of the blitzkrieg. Needless to say, it is not these events Jeane Kirkpatrick wishes to recall. She counts on the ignorance of prewar history on the part of most Americans and a certain number of West Europeans, and, linking her vague presentation of the negative picture of Munich with the notorious 'Soviet threat,' she tries to persuade readers that Moscow's initiatives are allegedly dangerous for the West. All this is fully consonant with J. Kirkpatrick's negative attitude to the disarmament process, which she disparagingly terms a 'risky game.'"

"The international situation is indeed fraught with serious dangers, but by no means because of Soviet initiatives. The threat to mankind comes from the enormous weapons arsenals and the now real possibility of a nuclear war. This danger is compounded by the stubborn U.S. desire to put nuclear systems into space. That is why the Soviet Union believes there is an urgent need for new approaches and ways of solving international problems. It is primarily a question of taking proper account of the realities of the modern world.

"Jeane Kirkpatrick's article evinces a quite different concept of security. It asks the question: Has the United States really lost the ability to get its own way in the international sphere? Kirkpatrick does not explain just what she is after. But this is stated with consummate clarity in President Reagan's report 'On U.S. Strategy in the National Security Sphere' published by the White House at the beginning of the year. Unlike the Soviet conviction that nuclear war is the main threat to mankind, the President's report says the Soviet Union is the most serious threat to U.S. security and national interests. That is why America must build up its arms to 'repulse any military offensive and end a conflict on terms favorable to the United States.' There is not even a hint of new thinking in it. The U.S. concept of security, as we can see, is based on military force and the thesis that a U.S. 'victory' in a nuclear conflict is possible.

"Again citing French people with similar views, she goes on to scare the public to the effect that, allegedly, 'the Soviet aim is first to rid Europe of nuclear weapons and then to destroy the Western alliance.' Surely Moscow is not proposing the unilateral elimination of nuclear forces in Europe. The USSR is prepared to destroy its own corresponding weapons, too, and moreover to agree to substantial conventional arms reductions. Speaking at a Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship rally in Prague, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev made a very important proposal: To ensure the immediate conclusion of an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union is prepared to start discussion on the questions of reducing and subsequently eliminating missiles with a range of 500-1,000 km deployed on the European continent.

"As for the 'Western alliance,' the Soviet proposals, as is well known, envisage the simultaneous disbandment of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact Organization. Here, of course, an important role could be played by the West European countries, whose influence in the international arena -- and on this one can agree with Jeane Kirkpatrick -- does not yet correspond to their potential.

"Here too I would cite once again the words of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, who stressed in Prague: 'It is high time to blaze a trail for new political thinking in Europe more than anywhere else!'

"All these processes must be accompanied by the development of mutually advantageous equal cooperation among all states, and the strengthening of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

"Mrs Kirkpatrick could also have found an answer here to the 'transition from capitalism to communism' -- a problem that worries her. The Soviet Union is fundamentally opposed to exporting revolution, just as it is to exporting counterrevolution. Social formations change in any country when the time is ripe. Jeane Kirkpatrick's arguments about whether the United States has entered a 'period of historical decline' is an American concern.

"Unlike the aims set out in the President's report, we in the USSR are busy developing socialism in our own country. To do that we need peace."

FURTHER ON DPRK PARTICIPATION IN SOVIET EXHIBITION

SK201141 Moscow International Service in Korean 1330 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpts] As we have already reported, a central exhibition of scientific and technological inventions of youths is being held in a big showroom of the Soviet People's Economic Exhibition Hall.

The exhibition was organized under the sponsorship of the 20th Komsomol Congress. In addition to the Soviet Union, 11 socialist countries, including the DPRK, are participating in this exhibition. The DPRK national day was observed yesterday. Such days in which all the participating countries are organized in turn make the participants better know the other participating countries and better understand each country's scientific and technological achievements. Comrade Yo Song-kyun, vice chairman of the DPRK State Science and Technology Committee and chairman of the State Invention Committee, and Iosif Ordzhonikidze, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee, were present at the opening ceremony of the DPRK national day. The participants saw the exhibition with interest.

The young inventors of the People's Korea brought machinery, radio electronic products, chemical industrial products, medical supplies, medical equipment, and [word indistinct]. This exhibition also introduced various advanced technological processes.

Let us listen to what Comrade Yo Song-kyun, vice chairman of the DPRK State Science and Technology Committee and vice chairman [title as heard] of the State Invention Committee, has to say about the items the DPRK is displaying.

[Begin Yo recording] I think the current (?Central Exhibition of Scientific and Technological Inventions of Youths) '87 began with our desire to contribute to the social and economic development of each country. Considering the trend of social and economic development at present, the multifaceted scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges among young scientists and technicians will greatly benefit nation states.

We were invited to participate in this exhibition (?held with/on the occasion of the 20th Komosomol Congress) and willingly accepted his offer. We displayed approximately 90 creations made by youths. Oriental electronic medical equipment, [word indistinct], electronic appliances, and other industrial products are displayed. Various inventions were devised in the course of the construction of the Sohae Lockgate, a construction project that was personally proposed by the great leader and encouraged by the dear leader. Therefore, inventions that are related to the final-stage embankment of the Sohae Lockgate are also displayed. These items, Oriental electronic medical equipment [words indistinct], and [word indistinct], indicators are creative products of our country.

Unlike the European socialist countries, we transported our exhibits by train. We originally planned to bring [word indistinct] (?real) products. Because we transported our exhibits by train, exhibits exceeding 100 kg in weight were not allowed. Therefore, we brought models as you see here. A 15,000-ton high-pressure press that is used to compound diamonds and many other machinery products are on display. A device used to tamp railway lines, [word indistinct], and a device to detect cracks in rails are on display. [end recording] [passage omitted]

COMMENTATOR LOOKS AT ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH DPRK

SK181045 Moscow International Service in Korean 0930 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Talk by station commentator Viktorov: "Along the Road of Victory in the Same Rank"]

[Text] Whenever we read news reports in Soviet newspapers and magazines on the successes by the workers of People's Korea in socialist construction, we always feel joy for the fraternal people. There has been a large number of such successes.

People in the DPRK recall that industry was almost nonexistent before liberation, as if this were the situation of the remote past. Today this country produces machine tools, electric locomotives, large ships, and electric appliances. It is difficult to list them. Large quantities of goods have been exported to foreign countries. There is a large number of technicians. There are 220,000 productions renovators, who are successfully carrying out their work in the DPRK in all sectors of the people's economy.

The movement to advance science and technology shows the level of a country's development. This movement has assumed a mass nature in People's Korea. This movement has served a leading factor in the production of industrial goods and in the struggle to economize on raw materials and fuel.

Another important factor for guaranteeing the Korean people's successes is friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. I recall my visit to the Kim Chaek steel mill in Chongjin. In my notebook, I find the following sentence I quoted from a Korean magazine: There are two small rusted furnaces and timeworn steam locomotives. Workers received a very small sum of wages despite their labor in the scorching head of furnaces all year round.

This was the aspect of the plant more than 40 years ago. The plant has developed into a large metallurgical enterprise, which is equipped with most sophisticated equipment and has developed in a leaping manner. Trade marks denoting Soviet meanufacture are on much production equipment. The Soviet Union has assisted the Korean friends in developing their economy.

Choe Hyon-ki, chief engineer of the plant, said: The metallurgical industry is the core of the economy. It is our task to supply steel, including rolled steel, to the people's economy. We are now performing this task. We are delighted at our working-level ties with the Soviet Union and with the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. [Word indistinct] of our plant is renovative. Soviet technicians are carrying out their work successfully at this plant.

We can proudly say that more than 60 projects of the people's economy, which have been built or rebuilt in People's Korea in cooperation with the Soviet Union, have served as the lighthouse of economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Korea. The aluminium plant in the Pukchang district, the Anju colliery, and may other large enterprises in the Republic show successful bilateral ties.

Whenever I visited large construction sites and heard people appreciate the reliable work carried out by Soviet people and equipment, I was happy. Many Soviet envoys have been highly commended by the DPRK Government for greatly contributing to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK. Relations between our two countries have been further strengthened in all sectors with the passage of time. Ties between the two countries are equal and reciprocal. These ties help the people much more completely and correctly understand the superiority of the socialist system, and they contribute to increasing productivity and to quickly performing tasks looming before the two countries.

In recent years ties between the CPSU and the WPK and the supreme-level meetings between the leaders of the two countries have become positive. At the new stage of developing ties in the economic and cultural sectors, cooperation has faithfully served in making our peoples and countries maintain closer contacts with each other.

It is by no means accidental that at a recent meeting, Comrades Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Kim Il-song unanimously expressed the view that is important to further develop and make trade and economic ties multilateral and to jointly seek new directions in scientific and technological cooperation.

The task of raising socialist economic integration to a new stage has been clearly set forth. No doubt, direct cooperation rendered by workers' groups should assume a great role in this work.

Relations of true friendship imply mutual understanding and support in dealing with urgent problems. Our country highly appreciates the DPRK's positive foreign line for alleviating military tension on the Korean Peninsula and for providing conditions favorable to achieving the fatherland's reunification on the basis of the principle of peace and democracy. The Soviet Union supports the DPRK's proposal for turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and many important proposals of the Republic. The overall plan set forth by Comrade Gorbachev in Vladivostok to guarantee durable peace and tactical cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region has won warm support from the Korean people.

The DPRK's success in building a new life is the result of the Korean people's strained labor and the result of the work of the WPK led by Comrade Kim Il-song, outstanding leader of the DPRK, an independent country.

As is noted in the congratulatory message of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the occasion of the 75th birthday of the leader of Korea, the Soviet Union highly appreciates the contribution made by Comrade Kim Il-song to solidifying relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Korean peoples, which are based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, and his effort to make the struggle of the democratic forces in the world to oppose the imperialists' policy of an arms race and military disputes become positive.

The Soviet Union and the DPRK are bound together with firm fraternal ties of friendship. Guaranteeing, strengthening, and developing friendship with the socialist countries is the preferential direction of our country's foreign policy. Recent events show cooperation between our two countries will develop for the welfare of workers and for the joint struggle to oppose the imperialist forces and achieve peace and lasting security in Asia.

PRAVDA NOTES LATEST SIGN OF 'GOOD WILL' BY DPRK

PM150938 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

["Commentator's Column" by Boris Barakhta "Urgent Task"]

[Text] The DPRK Government has once again demonstrated its sincere commitment and good will in the cause of relaxing tension on the Korean Peninsula. The other day Pyongyang made a constructive proposal to Seoul for a meeting between the DPRK and South Korean prime ministers. This initiative is clear evidence of the socialist countries' active efforts in the struggle for a peaceful future for our planet.

People's Korea is confident that a very wide range of problems could be discussed at talks between the DPRK and South Korean heads of government. A committed, frank dialogue would help to eliminate confrontation and distruct between North and South and help improve the situation in this relatively tense part of the Asian and Pacific region. As they say in the East, until the wind abates, the waves will not subside. The greatest efforts are required on both sides to stop the wind of cold war from blowing in the Far East.

The urgency of the DPRK's latest initiative is undoubted. The peoples living in the Asian and Pacific region are increasingly alarmed by the clear fact that the military threat in that part of the world is beginning to grow at a dangerous pace. Under pressure from the Pentagon, a militarized "triangle" linking Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul is become established in the Far East. The United States has enmeshed the south of the Korean Peninsula in a net of military bases and stationed many hundreds of items of nuclear weapons there, as well as modern means of delivery. The normalization of the explosive atmosphere in that zone of Asia is by no means promoted by the regular U.S.-South Korean Team Spirit maneuvers, whose scale and duration increase form year to year.

The Korean people's struggle for peace and the relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula is inextricably linked to the peace-loving foreign policy of the Land of the Soviets and the other fraternal socialist states, the common struggle against imperialist policy in Asia and the Pacific, and the development of good-neighbor relations there.

Pyongyang's initiatives fit in with the large-scale, profound Soviet proposals on incorporating the Asian and Pacific region in the general process of creating a comprehensive system of international security, put forward in Vladivostok last year. The DPRK's new proposals are a weighty contribution to the general coffers of the peace-loving foreign policy of the fraternal socialist states.

KIM IL-SONG ANTHOLOGY PUBLISHED IN USSR

PM211545 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "New Publication"]

[Text] An anthology of selected works by Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and president of the DPRK, prepared by the Political Literature Publishing House, has been published. The book includes speeches and interviews covering the period from 1984 through 1986. They reflect Kim Il-song's revolutionary, party, and state activities. The workds examine fundamental questions connected with the building of socialism in the DPRK and also topical international problems.

RYZHKOV SENDS GREETINGS TO ESCAP SESSION

LD211654 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 21 TASS -- Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, has sent, on behalf of the Soviet Government, a message of greetings to the 43rd session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of this organization.

"During the years of its operation ESCAP has convincingly shown," the message says, "that it has been a useful international forum at which vitally important problems of economic, social, scientific and technical cooperation are discussed. The Soviet Union highly appreciates the contribution made by the commission to the solution of the problems of socio-economic development of Asian and Pacific countries.

"The importance of the Asian-Pacific region in world politics and economics has further increased during the recent period. Therefore the states of the region, using their economic and intellectual potential and their diverse and original experience in the struggle for freedom and independence, can do a great deal for asserting a new political thinking in the nuclear-space age, for solving problems of importance to all mankind, for strengthening trust and mutual understanding between the peoples. It is this idea that permeates the Soviet Union's large-scale initiatives for ensuring peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region. These aims are also served by the Delhi Declaration on principles for a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world.

"We believe that in the conditions of growing interdependence of states differences in social and economic systems, ideologies and world outlook should be no obstacle to extensive and mutually beneficial commercial, economic and scientific-technical cooperation among all states concerned in the Asian-Pacific region. This meets the basic interests of all states in this region of the world, and the assertion of such an approach would be a practical step toward establishing a new world economic order that would guarantee equal economic security for all states.

"The complicated tasks facing mankind, such as development of productive forces and ensuring employment, the use of new sources of energy, improvement of means of conveyance and communication, peaceful utilization of space in common interests, tapping of the resources of the world ocean, protection of the environment, dealing with natural calamities and eliminating their consequences and many others -- all these could be areas of useful cooperation. Such a prestigious and important international forum as ESCAP has become today is called upon to make its contribution to this process.

"The Soviet Union which has a great economic, scientific and technical potential is ready to take an active part in peaceful regional cooperation.

"Our country is firmly convinced that it is only on the basis of joint efforts by all Asian and Pacific countries concerned that it is possible to look for constructive solutions to security problems in the Asian-Pacific region, for establishing in it an atmosphere of trust, goodneighbourliness and cooperation, for achieving real progress in the socio-economic development of countries of the ESCAP region."

Aristov Addresses Session

LD221425 Moscow TASS in English 1204 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Bangkok April 22 TASS -- TASS correspondent Boris Chekhonin reporting:

Representatives from 47 countries attending the 43rd session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) centered their attention on ways for combatting protectionism and discrimination in trade, and overcoming poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

The delegates heard with attention a message addressed to the session by Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, read by Boris Aristov, head of the Soviet delegation, minister of foreign trade of the U.S.S.R.

The minister said that the government of the Soviet Union was doing much to scale up and improve forms and methods of cooperation with Asian and Pacific countries. Over the past decade the Soviet Union's trade with the ESCAP states almost doubled.

1,500 facilities of which 800 are industrial installations were built in that region with the Soviet Union's assistance.

The head of the Soviet delegation emphasized that the current reorganization of the entire economic mechanism in the Soviet Union opened up new prospects for the development of allround ties with the Asian and Pacific countries, including economic relations.

The representative of the Soviet Government came out in favor of urgent measures with the aim of building an equal, open and democratic system of international economic relations. He also emphasized the need for joint actions to restructure the international monetary and financial system with account of the interests of all countries.

The Soviet Union, Boris Aristov said, attaches much importance to the establishment of a system of international economic security and suggests that a world congress be called to discuss that problem. Such a congress could consider in interrelationship everything that burdens international economic relations.

Social and economic development of the countries of the region, he went on, is impossible without cuts in military spending. The Soviet leadership is working consistently and persistently to put an end to the arms race. In the Asian and Pacific region our initiatives are aimed at resolving the existing regional problems, decreasing the level of military activity in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, implementing as soon as possible the United Nations declaration proclaiming the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and continuing the process of establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones in that region of the world.

THE TIMES CITED ON NEW ZEALAND ANTINUCLEAR POLICY

PM221411 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

["International Notes" by S. Kuznetsov: "Who Walks Upside Down"]

[Text] There is a well-known saying: Whatever the British leaders are thinking ends up on the pages of THE TIMES.

For example, THE TIMES recently published a report by its correspondent in Wellington that New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange had allegedly admitted in Parliament that his government had earlier concluded a secret agreement with Washington with the aim of ensuring that the U.S. military base remains in Christchurch to carry out Operation "Deep Freeze."

At first glance there would appear to be nothing sensational in this, as Operation "Deep Freeze" is a program to back up U.S. scientific research in the Antarctic, and the base in the New Zealand city of Christchurch is also used to equip American expeditions to the Antarctic. THE TIMES did not dwell long on this, however. According to the newspaper report, which cites a statement by James Bolger, leader of the opposition National Party, "this agreement also provides for U.S. Starlifter transport aircraft being able to continue flying via Christchurch even after New Zealand's adoption of antinuclear legislation" without having to report the kind of arms they are carrying.

Many leading mass information organs in the West have enthusiastically seized on this story and begun to rehash it in various forms, making various conjectures.

Everything was proceeding according to the book until D. Lange sent a letter to THE TIMES reproaching the newspaper for its "inaccurate" -- to put it mildly -- reporting of his statements. No "secret agreement" to maintain U.S. Antarctic facilities in Christchurch has been signed since New Zealand's adoption of antinuclear legislation, the prime minister points out. According to him, Wellington has never demanded guarantees from Washington that U.S. aircraft landing in Christchurch will not be carrying nuclear arms, as it relies on U.S. honesty to meet the provisions of the international Antarctic Treaty, to which it is signatory (this treaty unequivocally prohibits any military activity in the Antarctic).

How could statements by the head of the New Zealand Cabinet be so distorted?

Let us recall that in 1985 the reprsentatives of 13 countries in the South Pacific approved a treaty on Rarotonga Island that proclaimed the region a nuclear-free zone. Some of them -- Vanuatu and Tuvalu, for example -- have gone even further than the provisions of this agreement and, following Wellington's example, prohibit ships carrying nuclear power units or nuclear arms from docking at their ports. A coalition of the Labor Party and National Federation Party, which has an antinuclear program, won the Fiji elections quite recently.

Alice from the well-known tale by the English writer Lewis Carroll believed people walked upside down "on the other side of the world," by which people in Britain usually mean Australia and New Zealand. the same opinion could take shape in the minds of readers of THE TIMES, which has tried to turn the New Zealand Government's antinuclear policy upside down.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON LIGACHEV'S VISIT TO HUNGARY

Holds Talks With Nemeth

LD231559 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1255 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Budapest, 23 Apr (TASS) -- Yegor Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who is here on a working visit, today met MSZMP Deputy General Secretary Karoly Nemeth.

During the conversation, Ligachev reported on the restructuring of all spheres of life in Soviet society that began after the 27th CPSU Congress and on the fundamental significance of ensuring the irreversibility of the processes stemming from the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum. K. Nemeth, stressing the deep interest of Hungarian communists in the USSR's revolutionary renewal, told of the efforts of party organizations to mobilize the Hungarian working people to fulfill the decisions of the 13th MSZMP Congress on speeding up economic development and to overcome difficulties which arise.

The complex of links between the CPSU and the MSZMP, which are the core of the multifaceted and dynamically developing Soviet-Hungarian cooperation, was considered in detail. The importance of enriching and further developing forms of inter-party cooperation, including local links, was noted. Stressing the mutual respectful attitude to the experience of socialist construction of the two countries, Yegor Ligachev and Karoly Nemeth spoke in favor of its deeper joint study and interpretation in economics and ideology.

Taking part in the conversation, which passed in a cordial and comradely atmosphere, was Boris Stukalin, USSR ambassador to the Hungarian People's Republic.

Addresses Budapest Rally

LD240223 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Speech by CPSU Central Committee Secretary Yegor Ligachev at a Hungarian-Soviet friendship meeting at the Szim Machine Tool Combine in Budapest on 23 April; from the "Vremya" newscast -- recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Comrades, dear friends: We have come to Hungary on a working visit at the invitation of the MSZMP Central Committee. On the very first day of business, we decided to go to a workers' collective to experience the social atmosphere, understand what problems are concerning our Hungarian comrades, and compare the plans and the work in practice our fraternal party with the opinion of the working people.

I will tell you sincerely we have not been disappointed in our expectations. We have had a few very interesting, but unfortunately brief, meetings with workers and specialists and the management of your works and your combine. We have felt a healthy spirit and good optimism -- the confidence of the Hungarian working class and its efforts to work more energetically and live better: that is, we have felt the very same most important thing that is today setting the entire socialist world in motion -- the rhythm of renewal and a firm and persistent desire to rise to ever new heights.

The entire party and all our people are working under the sign of the approaching 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, under the effect of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee April Plenum, the 27th congress of our party and the Central Committee January Plenum.

Our country has really entered a new period of development. We call it restructuring. Reforms are being carried out on a large scale in the economy, in political and spiritual life, and in the moral atmosphere. The essence of these reforms, I will stress at once, Comrades, is not a negation of the entire previous experience. Their essence is creation. It is the improvement of developing socialism. It is the continuation of the cause of Great October. At the same time, simultaneously with creation, the road on which we are progressing is also being cleared of everything obsolete, of everything that, I would say, has grown decrepit and ramshackle. The party found it necessary to radically change the situation. In this regard our party's Central Committee January plenum pronounced the reforms sternly and courageously and with the highest degree of political responsibility. Its decisions gave integrity to the whole concept of restructuring and defined practical measures, motive forces, and guarantees for the acceleration of social progress in our society.

We describe the transformations in the country -- of which you are now speaking -- as revolutionary, and not just for effect, because they are indeed revolutionary. First and foremost, this is because they truly touch on the most significant aspects of all spheres of social life. The party has made a point of -- and we are following it strictly from the Politburo to primary party organizations -- not evading decisions and not evading a single difficult or complex question. This also occurs because the transformations are being carried out energetically. As a rule, words are followed by deeds. A remote scheme is united with the present day. Overall, Comrades, this means we wish to break away from the well-known gradual nature of our development. We are making a leap toward a new and high quality condition in Soviet society.

Comrades, our country's domestic policies are inextricably linked with activities to ensure peace and international security. The old popular wise saying can be applied here: He who builds a house doesn't want a fire. He who is engaged in the development of the economy and the improvement of the people's life doesn't want war. This truth can be applied alike to both our country and yours and to other fraternal countries where peaceful work and the well-being of the working people are the highest social values.

The preservation of peace today is only possible by affirming the new political thinking as the norm. We often speak of the new political thinking. What do we mean by it? What is the essence of this new political thinking? The essence lies in the necessity of rejecting wars and the policy of force, which have become totally obsolete in the nuclear space age, and in an understanding of the situation that the security of certain countries cannot now be ensured at the expense of other countries. Security can only be in identical, mutual, all-encompassing, and, to be precise, international. Very deep contradictions divide us from capitalism, but these are the contradictions of one world, and its security is indivisible.

We are convinced a nuclear-free, secure world can be constructed. All peoples, all countries -- large, medium and small -- must participate in all this. All initiatives by the Soviet Union and by the socialist countries -- which have evoked an enormous response and very widespread support throughout the world -- are permeated with the new political thinking. One of them is the Soviet Union's decision to isolate the problem of the total elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles, as well as operational and tactical missiles in Europe. [paragraph continues]

The new Soviet proposals submitted by Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in Prague and recently in Moscow aim to accelerate and facilitate an agreement on all these extremely important questions. Surely this is an example of the fresh manifestation of flexibility in the course of the CPSU, which once again confirms Soviet foreign policy is moved by a sincere desire to rid the world of the threat of an incinerating nuclear war.

The political essence of restructuring consists of the democratization of all aspects of public life. Some people are saying the Soviet Union is trying to take a step in the direction of Western-style liberalization, but they are starting from scratch, so says the argument, and they will need a long time to catch up on the so-called free countries. These kinds of claims are either naivete or quite simply a propaganda ploy. We have created a fundamentally new type of democracy -- a socialist democracy. We have guaranteed working people real rights and freedoms that do not exist in any bourgeois country. Therefore, we have nobody to catch up with and the point, Comrades, consists in something entirely different. Some of our political models have fallen behind the people's increased political culture, and have fallen behind the demands of the development of socialist society. We are not making full use of the democratic potential of socialism. This is the point; this is the problem that concerns us.

The growth of public and political openness [glasnost] and of criticism and self-criticism are incontrovertible evidence of democratization. The obligatory participation of broad public circles in discussing major national-economic and social issues is becoming literally the norm of political life. This will be a reliable barrier against all kinds of departmental and regional empire-building and against subjectivism and secrecy. There are plans to guarantee legal protection for broad openness [glasnost] as well.

Comrades! Our country's domestic policy is inseparably linked with the activities to guarantee peace and international security. The new political thinking permeates all the initiatives of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. These initiatives have aroused an enormous response and very widespread support throughout the world. Our peace initiatives have thoroughly undermined that supreme hoax of the 20th century -- the so-called myth of the Soviet military threat.

Comprehensive and multifaceted cooperation with the socialist countries acts as a powerful lever of progress for socialism. I want to stress especially that in line with the accords between Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Comrade Janos Kadar, numerous measures for deepening our links and imparting a new quality to them have already been implemented. In particular, we have succeeded in finding opportunities for expanding foods turnover in the current 5-year plan -- I will be frank here -- by a tidy sum, approximately R1 billion. Of course that is not the limit -- it is in addition. Solutions are taking shape for using free capacities at a number of Hungarian enterprises to work on Soviet orders; this will make it possible to ensure more stable operation of the enterprises.

You, as they say, are a factory people, and you realize that all these issues are not simple. But you can be certain the Soviet Union always proceeds from the interests of strengthening world socialism and is, for its part, willing to give its utmost for the sake of these goals. We have frequently proved this in practice -- in deed, as they say.

On behalf of the Soviet people I wish you and your families happiness and prosperity. Long live the eternal and indissoluble friendship between our peoples, the fraternal interaction between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and the comprehensive cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Hungarian people's republic! Let there be peace on earth! [applause]

GROMYKO PRESENTS AWARD TO OUTGOING CSSR ENVOY

LD231151 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko today presented the Order of Friendship Among Peoples to Miroslav Zavodil, CSSR ambassador to the USSR, for his great work in strengthening friendship and cooperation between the USSR and CSSR. The ambassador is concluding his work in Moscow and returning home.

Upon receiving the award, Comrade Zavodil warmly thanked the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for the high appraisal of his work. Comrade Gromyko said we proceed from the fact that there can be no other relations between the USSR and CSSR apart from relations of fraternal friendship. These sentiments of friendship were powerfully displayed during the visit by Comrade Gorbachev to the CSSR. We believe these feelings among the Czechoslovak people relate to our whole country.

Having congratulated the CSSR ambassador on the well-deserved award, Comrade Gromyko wished him every success in his new work.

CSSR NATIONAL FRONT APPROVES GORBACHEV INITIATIVES

LD240641 Moscow TASS in English 0714 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Prague April 23 TASS -- The results of the official friendly visit by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to Czechoslovakia are an important contribution to further strengthening fraternal friendship and cooperation between this country and the Soviet people, said a report on a meeting of the Central Committee of the National Front of Czechoslovakia, which was published here today.

It said that the talks between the Soviet leader and Czechoslovak party leaders and statesmen had enabled them to exchange the experience of building socialism by the two countries in the process of accelerating their social and economic development and effecting change in all aspects of public affairs.

The Presidium of the National Front's Central Committee, the report said, thought highly of and fully supported the new Soviet initiatives advanced in Prague and expressed confidence that all the organizations affiliated with the Front would actively help their realization.

EAST BERLIN ENVOY ON RESISTANCE TO REFORMS

LD211711 Hamburg DPA in German 1557 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] East Berlin (DPA) -- In the Soviet Union truly historical visions are currently being realized, but not everyone is in a position to follow them quickly.

Vyacheslav Ivanovich Kochemasov, Soviet ambassador in East Berlin, said this today at a conference held at the embassy in reply to a question on whether there is resistance to party chief Mikhail Gorbachev's course of reform in his country. It is, however, an insignificant part of society and the part that determines its development. People are conscious of the difficulties of reform, and there is still a lot more work to be done.

The ambassador assessed that today one does not need to translate such Russian terms as glasnost (openness) and perestroyka (restructuring) as an example of the great interest shown in developments in the Soviet Union. The course of reform is a restructuring in the broadest sense and includes the economy, social services, social life, culture, and the humanitarian arena. People want more democracy and thereby more socialism, as well as a better life for the people. The final goal is that socialist society fully uses its potential.

On foreign policy, the ambassador believes there is a new phase in international relations. He hopes the United States will stop its skepticism toward the Soviet Union's latest disarmament proposals. His country is not seeking any advantages for itself and will do nothing at the upcoming negotiations in Geneva that might complicate a solution. The Soviet Union welcomes efforts for a nuclear weapons-free corridor in central Europe and is prepared to remove the relevant Soviet weapons from ths region and to respect its status.

SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS DOCK IN GDR ON 'OFFICIAL' VISIT

LD232252 Moscow TASS in English 2218 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Berlin April 23 TASS -- A squadron of Soviet naval ships consisting of the Grozniy missile-carrying cruiser and the Svirepiy escort ship arrived in the port of Rostock of the GDR for an official friendly visit. The squadron came under the flag of Vice-Admiral Vitaliy Ivanov, commander of the Baltic Fleet.

FURTHER COVERAGE OF VISIT BY LUXEMBOURG'S POOS

Shevardnadze Luncheon Speech

LD230020 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1820 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow 22 Apr (TASS) -- Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, hosted a luncheon today in honor of Jacques Poos, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Luxembourg, who is in the USSR on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Eduard Shevardnadze said in his speech: Mr Minister, the Soviet Union long ago established diplomatic relations with your country, with which we have never been in enmity, and for which Soviet people have feelings of sincere respect and affection.

By turning to the past we are asking questions of the future. We are not simplifying the issues of securing peace in a reliable way in the nuclear age. The conception of an all-embracing system of international security, brought to the fore by Mikhail Gorbachev, is built precisely on the interconnection and interdependence between political, military, legal, humanitarian, and economic factors. There is hardly any sense in trying to prove the obvious, such as it is better to live in peace, security, and sufficiency without nuclear weapons, than in enmity, with confrontation, with economic slumps, and with nuclear weapons. There is no such choice. A reply must be given to the question to the effect whether we can live in a world peacefully without nuclear weapons. Our view on that score was expressed in a practical form in the statement by Mikhail Gorbachev of 15 January 1986, in the Soviet position at the meeting in Reykjavik, and at the recent talks in Moscow with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. At this time the Soviet side expressed itself in favor of the elimination -- the total removal -- of two classes of nuclear weapons: medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles in Europe.

They tell us, however, that such a version is unacceptable for the West. Yesterday they were still asserting that medium-range missiles must not be eliminated without reducing operational and tactical missiles. One respected West European statesman even compared these classes of missiles with "two coupled trucks." But when we proposed removing the "second truck" even ahead of the first, then it turned out that this version again also does not suit some of our partners.

Why? We are told it's because the Soviet Union has an advantage in other weapons. Let's assume that it is so. But does the USSR stand to gain, reducing a considerably larger number of missiles and warheads on them? Silence is maintained on that score, just as silence is maintained on our proposal for all types of weapons -- nuclear battlefield systems and conventional weapons -- that balance be established at lower levels than at present. It is said that if U.S. missiles are removed from Europe it will remain without a nuclear defense. Unfortunately, even in that case Europe will still be a long way from a nuclear weapon-free status. Britain and France will retain big nuclear arsenals, U.S. nuclear-capable planes and battlefield nuclear weapons will still remain at European bases, and U.S. atomic aircraft carriers are always close at hand.

Regrettably, the conclusion here is obvious: The NATO leaders do not want to part with nuclear weapons, in a desire to maintain them out of considerations far removed from the interests of European and general world security.

The reaction to confidence-building proposals is also startling. We agreed with the U.S. secretary of state that the Soviet defense minister and his U.S. counterpart or their deputies would meet and discuss mutual concerns with regard to the observance of agreements currently in effect. It is known that we came out in favor of the commanders in chief of the two political alliances -- NATO and the Warsaw Pact -- discussing together the issue of so-called military imbalance in Europe. However, we received a negative reply.

Nor do we see any response to the proposal on the creation of a nuclear-free zone in central Europe. In our opinion, this initiative submitted by the Governments of the GDR and Czechoslovakia could become a major measure of military detente.

The guests from Luxembourg should not get the impression that we are making a complaint. We just wish to explain our stand to a member of the North Atlantic bloc. I do not make a secret of our hope that during discussion of nuclear disarmament problems in NATO Luxembourg will favor making a decision on nuclear missiles in Europe in line with the aspirations of Europe's peoples. We believe that Luxembourg will support the right of Europe's nonaligned and neutral countries to take part in solving problems connected with reducing armed forces and conventional weapons on our continent. Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, is a single whole. In our common European home all states without exception should have a chance to discuss problems vital to them on an equal footing with others.

This is precisely the reason why we proposed to hold a special meeting of foreign ministers of participant states in the Helsinki process, at which it would be possible to consider the problems of disarmament in Europe in a comprehensive manner.

A unique chance has now emerged toward taking the first steps, not timid but bold ones, towards ridding Europe of nuclear weapons and reducing the levels of military confrontation. These steps can create a powerful impetus and open up the way to an accord on the primary problem of ensuring European and universal security. It is on our continent, it is through Europe that we can create a corridor to lead us out of the muclear impasse, a corridor to the elimination of all types of mass destruction weapons everywhere, once and for all.

However, this is not just a path over the mountains of weapons, but a route toward trust and eliminating various obstacles still separating the European peoples, and the East from the West. In a Europe delivered from its nucelar chains, it will be easier for everyone who has a sincere interest in developing mutually beneficial cooperation, in expanding and enriching contacts between individual people and whole peoples to breathe.

I have already had an opportunity to talk about the fact that politicians, in discussions about the best ways toward security and peace, are regrettably leaving out of their sight the one for whose sake these ways must be paved.

Over many decades, Soviet-Luxembourg relations have formed smoothly and calmly. They have been developing in a spirit of trust and mutual friendliness. The frank [otkrovennyy] and constructive exchange of views that has taken place these days has shown that out countries have considerable potential and possibilities for expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation in various spheres of the economy, science, and culture.

One would like to hope, Mr Minister, that your visit to the Soviet Union and your conversations with Soviet leaders will enter as another fine page in the chronicle of friendly links between our peoples.

PRAVDA: Poos Speech

PM231551 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talks End"]

[Excerpts] The talks between E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and J. Poos, Luxembourg deputy prime minister and foreign minister, ended 22 April. [passage omitted]

E.A. Shevardnadze gave a luncheon in J. Poos' honor. The ministers exchanged speeches during the luncheon. [passage omitted]

In his reply speech J. Poos said: I am particularly pleased to be in Moscow as guest of the Soviet Government. Meetings within the framework of the various organizations and international conferences in which we participate take place often. Our economic, trade, and cultural cooperation is proceeding normally. These numerous contacts and visits have raised our bilateral relations to a new level.

Our peoples, who were attacked during World War II and experienced devastation and suffering, showed unwavering courage and unshakable will in the struggle to retain their independence. We have not forgotten the heroism of the Soviet soldiers who made a significant contribution to the victory over the cruel occupiers and to the eradication of their repulsive ideology.

The lesson that, I am convinced, our two peoples learned from these tragic events is the same: It is necessary to build peace.

The nuclear era has opened up the terrifying prospect of destruction and wholesale annihilation, the minister went on to say; political leaders must respond boldly to the need to ensure disarmament and scrap all types of destructive weapon systems.

The conditions for implementing these steps have never been so favorable as today. The proposals offered by the U.S. President and the CPSU Central Committee general secretary in Reykjavik made it possible to embark on talks that despite their obvious complexity, fully retain the possibility of reaching agreement. In this process the stakes are very high. We must move forward gradually, to ensure that global equilibrium and the security of all countries -- large or small -- are never questioned.

Luxembourg will welcome any agreement that makes it possible to implement the "zero" option on Euromissiles -- something that beyond all doubt, marks a historic breakthrough in the disarmament process. But we are equally convinced that one such agreement will be insufficient. It must be followed by other agreements in the sphere of shorter-range nuclear arms and by the total elimination of chemical weapons.

We greeted with great interest the proposals recently offered by General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev on eliminating the present inequality and monitoring the fulfillment of disarmament agreements. [paragraph continues]

Monitoring will undoubtedly be one of the key conditions for achieving success within the framework of the process now underway. Needless to say, lasting peace presupposes reductions in both nuclear and conventional military arsenals.

Undoubtedly there are considerable differences between our systems from the standpoint of their political and economic makeup. But these real differences do not diminish the universality of fundamental human rights enshrined in the universal declaration of 10 December 1948, just as they cannot hamper the maintenance of extensive cooperation and relations based on mutual trust between countries with different socioeconomic systems.

The discussions currently under way in Vienna within the CSCE framework show that the trust needed in East-West relations is being established only slowly and sometimes with difficulty. But any success like that reached last year at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures can bring us closer together and thereby reduce tension.

Today your country, under the leadership of General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev, has embarked on the path of modernization and restructuring. Important decisions have been made, particularly on questions relating to human rights, and they have generated the greatest interest on our side.

The openness on which your policy is based may in many respects serve as a stimulus in developing East-West relations. It is capable of making our "common European home" -- which the general secretary spoke about -- more open and reliable. Luxembourg will make its own contribution -- however modest -- to this cause.

The luncheon was attended by V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, the leaders of a number of USSR ministries and departments, and other officials.

The guest visited the V.I. Lenin Study and Apartment Museum in the Kremlin.

J. Poos left Moscow the same day. He had been on an official visit to our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

He was seen off at the airport by Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and other officials.

R. Bloes, Luxembourg ambassador to the USSR, was among the send-off party.

VORONTSOV RECEIVES DOUBIN-LED FRENCH DELEGATION

LD212356 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 21 TASS -- Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, has received today the delegation of the French Left Radicals Movement led by Francois Doubin, chairman of the party. The French delegation is currently on a visit in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation. Views were exchanged on problems of nuclear disarmament and military detente in Europe. The attention of the French guests was drawn to the USSR's peace initiatives, which were put forward during Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Czechoslovakia and the Soviet leadership's talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

TOLSTYKH RECEIVES FRG TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

LD222031 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS -- Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology Boris Tolstykh today received here FRG Minister of Research and Technology Heinz Riesenhuber. Prospects of scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries, specifically in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, were discussed.

FRANCE'S RAIMOND RECEIVES DEPUTY MINISTER ADAMISHIN

LD222351 Moscow TASS in English 2013 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Paris April 22 TASS -- Jean-Bernard Raimond, minister of foreign affairs of France, received Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, here today. Adamishin informed the French side of the Soviet initiatives aimed at reducing nuclear confrontation in Europe in the light of the talks in Moscow with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Yakov Ryabov, ambassador of the USSR to France, took part in the conversation.

JOINT 'CONSULTATIONS' WITH NORWAY END IN OSLO

LD222119 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Oslo April 22 TASS -- Two-day Soviet-Norwegian consultations on questions of the Vienna meeting of representatives of participating states in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe ended here today.

The Soviet special representative, head of the department for questions of security and cooperation in Europe of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yuriy Deryabin met with representatives of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and also was received by the acting prime minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs Thorvald Stoltenberg.

It was noted during these conversations that the proposals made by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev in Prague and at the meeting with the United States Secretary of State George Shultz in Moscow open the road to ending the nuclear arms race and lowering the level of military confrontation in Europe.

SWEDISH FIGHTER PLANE STRAYS INTO AIRSPACE

LD222028 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 2000 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] A Swedish Draken fighter aircraft today mistakenly flew into Soviet airspace over the Lithuanian coast. During a routine flight east of Gotland, the plane went into Soviet airspace, probably due to the Swedish flight path's insufficient directions. The Foreign Ministry in Stockholm immediately expressed regret to the Soviet authorities over the violation.

PAPER REPORTS ALGERIAN DEFENSE OFFICIAL'S ARRIVAL

PM221035 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Apr 87 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "On Official Visit"]

[Text] General M. Chelloufi, general secretary of the Ministry of National Defense of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, arrived in the Soviet Union 20 April on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Defense Ministry.

At the capital's Sheremetyevo Airport the Algerian guest was met by Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of general staff of the USSR Armed Forces and USSR first deputy defense minister, and generals, admirals, and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces.

A. Fedal, Algerian ambassador to the Soviet Union, was among the welcoming party.

A guard of honor was drawn up at the airport in honor of the eminent guest. Gen M. Chelloufi received the report from the chief of the guard of honor and inspected the Soviet servicemen's formation.

IZVESTIYA VIEWS KUWAITI LIFE, FOREIGN POLICIES

PM230904 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by special correspondents K. Geyvandov, V. Shevchenko: "Kuwait Day By Day"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait City and Moscow -- [passage omitted] Traveling through Kuwait, we naturally referred frequently to the map, although, frankly, it is practically impossible to get lost here. If you look at the state's location in the region, you will see that it is located in the most northwesterly part of the Persian Gulf, directly bordering on Iraq's southern regions, where the bloody Iran-Iraq war continues. When the fighting becomes particularly intensive and fierce, the roar of artillery carried clearly to the capital.

There are many other indications of the proximity of the war and the fears experienced by the Kuwaitis in this connection. All the most important state facilities and government institutions are under intensified guard by the troops. People have become more serious. The former atmosphere of relaxation has gone. On the contrary, a tense restraint can be sensed everywhere. And when we shared this observation with the amir's adviser Muhammad al-Rumayhi, chief editor of the magazine AL-'ARABI, he confirmed it, and observed:

"The situation is really very serious. If Basra falls, it could have a negative effect on Kuwait first of all."

The U.S. Administration unscrupulously exploits these fears and misgivings on the part of the peoples living in the Persian Gulf region for its own selfish purposes. Military hysteria is being whipped up in the region. American warships call here one after another, almost continuously. There is no end to the countless Pentagon delegations, including very high-ranking ones. [paragraph continues]

The United States tries to cover up for this entire escalation of military preparations with feigned concern for the security of the Persian Gulf states, although after the scandalous "Irangate" revelations nobody trusts the Americans and their prestige here has, it is said, fallen to its lowest ebb. Yusuf al-'Ulayyan, chief editor of the KUWAIT TIMES newspaper, and many other Kuwaitis we met describe Washington's activity in the region as nothing but a "dirty game."

People in Kuwaiti political circles are still under the influence of the recent Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) summit meeting. And this is not only because such a major forum of leaders of the Muslim world was in itself an important milestone in the modern history of this Arab state, which every year plays a more and more active role in international affairs, but also because the decisions made at the ICO summit meeting gave rise to hopes, albeit very slight, for the possibility of putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

One of the participants in this armed conflict, Iran, boycotted the Kuwait ICO conference and refused beforehand to acknowledge the validity of its decisions, including those aimed at ending hostilities between Iran and Iraq and seeking a solution to the disputes between them at the peaceful conference table.

Nonetheless Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Sulayman Majid al-Shahin sees some hopeful signs in the reaction of Iranian leaders in the course of recent contacts, and states that his government, both independently as ICO chairman and in cooperation with the UN secretary general, intends to continue its efforts to shift the Iraq-Iran conflict onto a footing of peaceful political solutions.

Of course, the war, which is continuing at Kuwait's very threshold, was one of the main topics, but by no means the only topic we discussed during conversations with the deputy foreign minister and with other Kuwaiti interlocutors. They also included questions of a just Near East settlement and Soviet-Kuwaiti relations. Concerning the latter, Al-Shahin noted, in particular, that the Soviet Union's policy in the Persian Gulf region, whose components are peace, security, stability, and cooperation, finds a positive response in the region's states.

At the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA), one of its leaders, Zia M. al-Fahumi, opened our long conversation by asking:

"Do you know when the Arabs will stop killing each other and unite in the struggle against the common enemy?"

This single sentence, formulated, moreover, in the interrogative form, seemed to reflect all the grief and pain that millions of Arabs feel over the "camp war" in Lebanon and the Lebanese civil war in general, over the fate of the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied lands, over the split in the Arab world which prevents it from working in unison, and therefore seriously, on the 40-year-old problem of the Arab-Israeli crisis. Incidentally, a corresponding resolution on a just Near East settlement was adopted by the Kuwaiti ICO summit. It expresses complete support for the proposal on convening a peace conference on the Near East under UN auspices, with the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO, and it must be supposed that Kuwait, as the current ICO chairman, will take practical steps to implement the decisions adopted.

As has been noted, the Kuwaiti Government has in recent years played an increasingly active part in the international community's affairs. One practical proof of this, perhaps, is the country's participation in the Nonaligned Movement and its initiatives, which have turned the movement into such an important factor in world politics. This concerns, above all, questions of war and peace.

And here Kuwait's position is most fully reflected in the reply message from Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to the greetings from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to the Kuwait ICO conference. "The Soviet Union's policy, aimed at arms limitation and above all nuclear arms limitation," the message said, "and at the lessening of international tension, is wise and realistic and enjoys the support of all peace-loving forces. The USSR's course in the Near East, aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region, and the Soviet Union's position on the Palestinian problem enjoy support on our part."

During our stay in Kuwait we had interesting meetings with three government ministers. Each of them deemed it necessary to say some kind words about the friendly relations established between our two peoples and about the fruitful cooperation between states in various spheres of life. Thus Minister of Information Jhaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir, recalling the recently signed Soviet-Kuwaiti cultural agreement, stated that the relations established between our countries set a good example of peaceful coexistence between states with different systems.

Minister of Finance Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi expressed satisfaction with the economic cooperation agreement concluded between the Soviet Union and Kuwait last year. He stressed that Soviet-Kuwaiti cooperation is based on mutual respect and trust and that it is a model of equal relations between large and small states in the interests of universal peace, security, and development. Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Asbi al-Sabah, recalling his many visits to our country, inquired with animation about the changes now taking place in our country.

It must be said that literally all our Kuwaiti interlocutors showed a lively attentiveness toward the changes recently taking place in the Soviet Union. They were particularly interested in the possibility of setting up joint enterprises with foreign capital in our country's national economy.

Thus the amir's adviser 'Abd al-Aziz al-Husayni, who can be said to have been in at the beginning of Soviet-Kuwaiti cooperation, told us that the Kuwaitis have money and the government encourages capital investment abroad. Kuwaiti capital has been and continues to be invested in Western Europe, North America, and elsewhere. Therefore the prospects for participation in joint enterprises in the Soviet Union could also prove tempting for us. But first of all the matter must be carefully, comprehensively studied, so as to ensure success. In the same context Finance Minister al-Kharafi raised the question of the joint enterprises being set up in our country with foreign capital....

The conversations with the Kuwaitis whom we met with ended, as a rule, with talk of plans for the future. And from everything we saw, we can conclude that the country which sprang up in the desert, like a fairy tale, and now holds a firm place in the world community of nations is oriented toward the future. An example of this is the program for the transformation of almost 10 offshore islands, of which only one is currently inhabited -- Faylakah. For the others, the government has drawn up far-reaching plans whose implementation will transform these islands, one after another, into developed regions where houses for many thousands of people will be built. And one hopes that nothing may prevent the friendly people of Kuwait from putting all their plans into practice.

ARMY PAPER CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY TOWARD LIBYA

PM211025 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Apr 87 First Edition p 3

[G. Musayelyan article: "The Impotence of Power"]

[Text] Imagine residential districts ravaged by fire, misshapen ruins of homes, and burned cars. Imagine people in the terrifying and unnatural poses that are peculiar to death and the howling of the sirens of emergency vehicles. That was how the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Banghazi looked a year ago, in the wake of the missile and bomb raids by U.S. aircraft.

The main objective of the 18 U.S. F-111 fighter-bombers, which took off with a full load of rockets and bombs from the British base at Lakenheath on 15 April 1986, was to wipe the area around the Bab al-Aziziyah Barracks in Tripoli off the face of the earth. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and his family were in their residence at the time.

The U.S. aggression against a sovereign Arab state caused the anger of all progressive mankind. The barbaric raid on Libya was ranked together with other most grievous crimes like the destruction of Spain's Guernica by the fascists and the mass murder of Vietnamese people in the village of My Lai by U.S. marines. There were also recollections of another rapacious crime by U.S. imperialism in the Near East: The bloody shelling of civilian settlements in Lebanon by the guns of the U.S. battleship New Jersey in 1983. "Our Goliath is capable of destroying a city's entire residential district in a matter of minutes," the NEW YORK POST rejoiced at the time. And indeed, only scorched earth was left wherever the shells, each weighing about one metric ton, had fallen.

It is not difficult to explain Washington's present aggressive policy against Libya. It is the U.S. response to that country's anti-imperialist course, its support for the national liberation struggle waged by Arab peoples, and its decisive criticism of U.S. policy in that region, the Camp David agreements, and Israel's aggressive actions.

When R. Reagan came to power, the State Department launched a noisy campaign accusing Libya of supporting "international terrorism." Plans were being elaborated for a coup d'etat in the country, and the U.S. 6th Fleet held provocative maneuvers close to the Libyan coast. Washington launched an undisguised economic blockade of Libya: President Reagan banned all business and trade ties between the United States and that country. The U.S. mass media openly called for the overthrow of the regime in Libya. In March 1986, U.S. warships and aircraft based on 6th Fleet aircraft carriers carried out a missile and bomb strike on the suburbs of the Libyan city of Sidra and other targets. Finally, the gangster-like policy culminated in the bombing raid of the capital of a UN member state.

Let us cast aside the conjectures and insinuations by the helmsmen and captains of the U.S. ship of state about some alleged "Libyan complicity in international terrorism." Its leaders categorically rejected all accusations against them, which were fabricated by the U.S. CIA and the Israeli Mosad. Something else is becoming increasingly obvious. The United States has evidently decided to test in practice the effectiveness of the "doctrine of neoglobalism" in the region, together with the Tel Aviv terrorists who have, for a long time now and with Washington's blessing, been committing rapacious crimes in the region (let us recall the raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the bombing of Tunis and South Lebanon's cities).

It has to be stressed that the Near East, which is taken in the United States to mean broadly a region stretching from Afghanistan and Pakistan in the east to Morocco in the west and from Turkey in the north to Somalia in the south, is, from Washington's viewpoint, the most convenient test site for working out methods to stifle national liberation movements everywhere in the world. "The Near East today is the 20th century's operational laboratory for conducting political experiments," former U.S. Secretary of State A. Haig claimed, speaking way back in May 1982 at the Chicago Chapter of the Council for International Relations. Quite bluntly said, as we can see.

When you read the bombastic statements by U.S. Administration spokesmen about desire for peace on the planet, about the paramount need to settle regional conflicts, and about their almost paternalistic attitude toward the urgent needs and rights of the peoples, you automatically feel amazed by their boundless hypocrisy.

The intervention against Libya, behind which stood Washington's desire to intimidate Arab and Islamic countries, to impose on the Arabs a separatist Mideast settlement, and to force the Muslims to abandon the struggle for the liberation of Israeli-occupied Jerusalem, proves yet again the total irresponsibility of the United States. It is, after all, the United States that is bringing the situation in an explosive region like the Near East to the brink of eruption, with all the ensuing consequences for the cause of peace. And all this is being done exclusively for the sake of its hegemonistic ambitions.

The armed provocation against Libya brought nothing but shame to the United States. It was appraised by the 13th Nonaligned Movement Conference in Harare and by the supreme forums of the OAU and the Islamic Conference Organization as an act of state terrorism and blatant trampling of international law. Having condemned the U.S. aggression, the UN General Assembly confirmed Libya's right to receive proper compensation for the material damage and loss of human life.

Today the United States continues to whip up the situation in the Near East and along the borders with Libya. A serious danger is presented by the Pentagon's stubborn encouragement of the Habre regime in Chad to advance further into the country's north, which is controlled by the Transitional Government of National Unity. Such schemes, in the opinion of many African and Arab leaders, threaten Libya with a U.S. aggression from the south. The newspaper AL-KHALIJ, published in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), writes that France and the United States are helping Habre to encircle Libya and, if possible, to attack it. The newspaper asks: Is Washington's goal not a preparation for another attempt to overthrow Libya's leader M. al-Qadhdhafi? Unpredictable consequences could arise also from the fact that the United States assembled a naval armada unequaled in recent times in the Arabian Sea by the entrance to the Persian Gulf.

The Soviet Union invariably displays solidarity with the Libyan people, who are upholding their honor and dignity and their right to independent development, and renders support to Libya in the political, diplomatic, economic, and military areas. During the meeting held in Tripoli a few days ago between Yu. Vorontsov, special envoy of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR first deputy foreign minister, and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Soviet side confirmed support for Libya's firm determination to advance along the path of progress and for its right to an independent path of development.

MADAGASCAR'S RATSIRAKA STOPS OVER IN MOSCOW

PM211344 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "On the Way Home"]

[Text] Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, stopped over in Moscow on his way from Pyongyang to Antananarivo. At the airport, where the state flags of the USSR and Madagascar were raised, the president was met by A.F. Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. A brief, friendly talk took place, during which certain questions of Soviet-Malagasy relations and international problems of mutual interest were touched upon.

S.R. Rabe, [name as transliterated] Malagasy ambassador to the USSR, was present at the airport.

The president of Madagascar sent telegrams to M.S. Gorbachev and A.A. Gromyko from on board the plane, expressing cordial gratitude for the warm reception.

DEPARTING MENGISTU GREETS GORBACHEV FROM PLANE

PM221457 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "From On Board the Aircraft"]

[Text] Haile Mariam Mengistu, general secretary of the Workers Party of Ethiopia (WPE) Central Committee and chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Socialist Ethiopia, who paid a brief friendly visit to the USSR on 17-18 April, sent a telegram from on board his aircraft to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in which he expresses deep gratitude for the warm hospitality shown the Ethiopian leader and his accompanying delegation during their visit to Moscow.

TASS CITES CASTRO SPEECH ON THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT

LD212143 Moscow TASS in English 1038 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Havana April 21 TASS -- "The now existing unfair international economic order is the main obstacle to the development of 'Third-World' countries", stated Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers of the republic.

Speaking at the sixth ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 here on Monday, he emphasized that the mounting external debt of the 'Third World' became an increasingly serious problem.

"The more we pay to the developed capitalist countries, the more we remain in debt to them. International banks either deny credits for us or grant them on terms which remind one of the epoch of colonialism."

Fidel Castro pointed out that the sharp decline in the prices of staple export commodities of the developing countries was having a disastrous effect upon their economies.

"Today's level of these prices", he said, "is the lowest as compared with those on the days of the crisis in the thirties. Protectionism continues to mount at the same time."

"U.N. data have it that about 50 percent of Latin American exports are infringed in this or that form in the United States, Japan, and in the countries of the European Economic Community."

"In 1985", Fidel Castro went on to say, "the developing countries' people accounted for more than 75 percent of the world's entire population. By the year 2025 the population of the 'Third World' will account for 83 percent of the world's one."

"This means that in the coming 40 years our countries will encounter serious problems in the fields of health care, education, and the provision with food."

He recalled that in the 'Third World' there are now 500 million unemployed, 857 million illiterates while child mortality rate is eight times as high as that in the developed countries.

"All these data indicate that the world economic crisis signifies a still greater hunger, illiteracy, poverty, and diseases to our countries."

"Virtually", the Cuban leader went on to say, "the developing countries lenders, not debtors, for it is precisely by the sweat and blood of their people that the wealth, which ensures the present level of development of the leading capitalist countries, has been amassed".

"To engage in international cooperation in combatting backwardness is not only the duty of the former metropolitan countries, but is also the ethical and solidarity duty of all developed countries, both capitalist and socialist ones", Fidel Castro said.

"This is also the duty of more developed countries of the 'Third World' with regard to economically backward countries."

Fidel Castro pointed out in this connection that more than three thousand Cuban physicians and thousands of other specialists worked in various developing countries, and that more than 22,000 youths and girls from those countries studied in Cuba.

He spoke of military expenditures as an important source of funds for combating economic backwardness of the 'Third World'.

"Peace and development are indivisible", Fidel Castro emphasized.

Having recalled that a real opportunity has appeared of late to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe, he described that as an important step in the struggle for an end to the arms race and for full elimination of nuclear weapons.

"A considerable part of resources thus saved should be used for the development of the 'Third World'", the Cuban leader stated.

"If military powers are able to get rid of the nightmare of a world thermonuclear war, it would be natural for the peoples of the 'Third World' to entertain hopes for getting rid of the nightmare of constant threat of dying of hunger and diseases".

Fidel Castro called for resolute joint actions by the developing countries with a view to ensuring their right to a future and to a worthy place in the world and in history.

SUPREME SOVIET'S VOSS RECEIVES VENEZUELA'S LA ROZA

PM211043 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 14 April A.E. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, received a Venezuelan National Congress delegation headed by Angel Ramon La Roza, deputy chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, which made a stopover in Moscow on its way to the DPRK.

The Venezuelan parliamentarians displayed a lively interest in the socioeconomic changes taking place in our country in the process of the in-depth transformation of our social life. The guests were informed of progress made in the restructuring process, and it was stressed that the changes taking place in the USSR are convincing evidence of our country's loyalty to the cause of peace and international cooperation.

During a friendly conversation the two states' parliamentarians expressed their mutual desire to intensify their efforts aimed at freeing mankind from the nuclear threat. The members of the Venezuelan delegation displayed an interest in the new Soviet peace initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Prague and stressed the importance of the earliest possible solution to the problems of disarmament and the elimination of regional conflicts, in Latin America in particular. The sides noted the large role played by Venezuela as a member of the Contadora Group, which is responsible for an important initiative in the task of strengthening peace in Central America and eliminating hotbeds of tension in this region.

LEADERS COMMEMORATE LENIN'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Yeltsin Opens 'Solemn' Meeting

LD221448 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1419 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] A solemn meeting devoted to the 117th anniversary of Vladimir Ilich Lenin's birth has just ended at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses. Gathered here are leading workers from Moscow and its environs, CPSU veterans, representatives of party, soviet, and public organiations, men of science and culture, and warriors of the Soviet Armed Forces. Diplomats from other countries and foreign guests are present.

The participants in the solemn meeting greeted with applause Comrades Gorbachev, Aliyev, Vorotnikov, Gromyko, Zaykov, Ligachev, Ryzhkov, Solomentsev, Chebrikov, Shevardnadze, Demichev, Dolgikh, Yeltsin, Slyunkov, Sokolov, Talyzin, Biryukova, Dobrynin, Lukyanov, Medvedev, Razumovskiy, and Kapitonov.

The solemn meeting was opened by Comrade Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom. A report entitled Leninism Is the Basis of Restructuring Theory and Policy, was delivered by Comrade Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The report was listened to with great attention and frequently accompanied by prolonged applause.

Yeltsin Presents Wreath

LD222055 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The V.I. Lenin mausoleum was visited today by members and candidate members of the bureau of the Moscow Gorkom and of the bureau of the Moscow obkom and by leaders of the Moscow city and oblast soviets. Wreaths were laid at the V.I. Lenin mausoleum on behalf of the party gorkom and obkom and of the city and oblast soviets.

Taking part in the wreath-laying ceremonies was Comrade Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom.

Solovyev Lays Flowers

LD222046 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] In Leningrad today, party veterans and delegations from rayons and labor collectives arrived in Smolnyy. Vladimir Ilich Lenin lived and worked here. From here, Lenin led the revolutionary uprising of Petrograd workers, soldiers, and sailors and guided the first steps of the young Soviet republic.

At noon, the solemn ceremony began at the monument to Vladimir Ilich Lenin. Flowers were laid at the monument by Comrade Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningrad Obkom, communist party and labor veterans, and representatives of labor collectives. New exhibitions have opened at the Lenin and PRAVDA newspaper museum.

Ryzhkov Speaks on Lenin

PM231515 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 87 Second Edition pp 1-3

[Report by N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, at a ceremonial meeting at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses on 22 April devoted to the 117th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth: "Leninism is the Basis of Restructuring Theory and Policy"]

[Text] Comrades, we are marking this anniversary of the birth of the great Lenin at an essentially revolutionary time, when, using the words of Vladimir Ilch, millions and tens of millions of people every week are learning more than is normally learned in a year. It is a time when the immense strength of the party and the people, which have launched the work of transformation -- bold in design, mighty in scale, and permeated with the revolutionary spirit of Leninism -- is particularly evident.

The depth and intrepidness of Lenin's creative thinking, his mastery of socioeconomic and political analysis, his organizational skills and boundless devotion to the interests of the working class are all, in fact, now being embodied by the party in its strategic plans and decisions. These are directed toward drastic changes, toward the qualitative renewal of the life of the entire country, and toward continuing the cause of Great October at a new historical stage in our development. Every step in restructuring convinces us of the importance of checking with Lenin, turning to his teachings in all their wealth, and reflecting the dialectics of the living movement of society.

The anniversary of Lenin's birth is both a festive and a responsible date in the revolutionary calendar, and particularly today when it coincides with other politically important landmarks measuring the course of our development. The significant anniversary in socialism, the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution, is approaching. It has been 2 years since the turning point in the events in the lift of the party and the whole country, the Central Committee April Plenum. Behind us is a year of work since the historic 27th congress, with its program, ideas, and lessons of truth. New horizons for the activities of the party, the state, and the people have finally been opened by the far-reaching decisions of the Central Committee January plenum. It armed us with the theory for the policy of restructuring, and translated the course of the congress onto the plane of practical matters on the basis of the all-round development of socialist democracy. In a word, there is a need, on this ceremonial day, to look back at the ground we have covered and, as Lenin demanded in such cases, focus attention on the tasks facing us.

Leninist Strategy of Revolutionary Renewal [subhead]

Comrades! The deep restructuring in our society, because of its significance in terms of renovation, is comparable with the revolutionary transformations of that period when the party and the very broad masses of the people began socialist construction under Lenin's guidance. Then, Lenin said the Russian Bolsheviks had to "embark upon an inordinately new task." Decades have passed since those words were said. Socialism has become our reality. It has elevated man's work, improved his well-being, provided him with security in the social sphere, and given him confidence in tomorrow. It has turned our country into a powerful state, with a huge economic and scientific and technical potential, into a country with a progressive culture, a highly educated society, and an indissoluble, fraternal union of peoples.

Much has been achieved and a colossal amount of experience has been accumulated, but as in the past, every step forward is something "inordinately new", so new it is possible to progress further along the planned path only through the constant improvement and renovation of forms and methods of work, tactical watchwords, and, if so required, strategic directives, as well. This is what both history and Lenin have taught us.

Lenin himself provided splendid models of decisive action, sharply turning the party's policy and raising it to the level of the changing requirements of life. It is precisely this example of Lenin's that was pursued by the CPSU and the Central Committee in April 1985, when the course toward the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development, which was decisive to the country's destiny, was taken. New strategic objectives, revolutionary in their nature, were set out at the April plenum. What is needed to achieve them is to work untiringly to transform all aspects of the life of society, to repeatedly bring them in line with the growing productive forces and the material and spiritual requirements of the people.

The plenum directed the party and the whole country toward a constant search, ruling out a situation whereby, having freed ourselves from one set of dogmas, we might fall under the power of others. The party has given a strict appraisal of the stagnant trends and the departures from Leninist principles which have existed in our society. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed, it has shown a determination "to understand the causes of negative processes and to work out measures that accelerate our progress, guarantee there will be no repetition of the mistakes, and enable us to move forward, and only forward, proving in deeds the capability for constant self-improvement that is organically characteristic of socialism."

It has been 2 years since restructuring began. Among its first results, we count, above all, a change in the social atmosphere. While they still have not been dug up completely, in any case the roots that have been nourishing apathy, indifference, and equanimity have been fundamentally cut back. The popular masses have been drawn with interest toward the creative work of renewal. The working people are recognizing more and more that they are in control of their lives. They have started to feel a responsibility for the present and future of their state, for the destiny of socialism. They have accepted restructuring wholeheartedly as a matter closely concerning them.

Having the impression of the congress of the Leninist Komsomol fresh in my mind, it is especially gratifying to note the surge of enthusiasm from Soviet youngsters. They are bringing the ardor and energy of youth to our transforming work. A selfless readiness is being manifested to take on the greatest and most responsible matters awaiting us on the path to the 21st century. It is their task, the task of the young people, to continue the business of restructuring begun by the party. In a word, restructuring has penetrated deep into the broad layers of society. In that regard, it is worth recalling this: At the third congress of Soviets in January, 1918, Lenin talked about the fruits Soviet power had already brought, and stated: "Look into the very heart of the working people, into the thick of the masses. Organizational, creative work is seething there; it is self-renewing, illuminated by the resolution of life." According to Lenin, that is the most important thing, for the party's supreme task consists of mobilizing millions, bringing to life the great -- in Lenin's definition -- "forces of revolution, rebirth, and renewal."

In evaluating from these positions the changes now taking place, it can be said that the main issue is the country has awakened and has gone into motion. Even if the qualitative turning point we are trying to achieve has not yet come -- that takes time -- still, changes of a great political, spiritual, and moral significance are being accomplished. They are plain for all to see. That is a great victory by the party and a remarkable achievement by the Soviet people. [applause]

In implementing the very important restructuring in our society, the party singles out the main directions and the key areas on which maximum efforts must be concentrated. The economy is one of the most important of these.

It is the basis of the might of our homeland. The most strenuous and uncommonly difficult work is now unfolding here, work reaching deep down into the life of society. The whole course of restructuring in the economy is directed at strengthening its potential and at creating the conditions for resolving new and increasingly large-scale political and social tasks.

What is restructuring in the economy? It is primarily the radical reshaping of the entire system of economic relations which opens up scope for the initiative and creativity of the masses. It is dynamic development along the road of intensification and putting qualitatively new content into rates of growth.

To a large degree, the revolutionary renewal of society will depend on how radically, quickly, and thoughtfully we carry out restructuring in the economy.

Since April 1985, there has been a period of the working out of an extensive program of restructuring; of the adoption of major political, economic, and organizational measures affecting both productive forces and production relations. People have started learning to think and act in a new manner. Experience has been amassed. New economic methods of management have been elaborated; the spheres of their application have been widened consistently. In other words, we have taken the first step on this very complicated section of road. Forthcoming now is the next step, which is even more crucial and difficult. Continuing the process of improvement, it is necessary to begin work on the implementation of everything that has been conceived, checked, and tested, and for the practical realization of which the road is now wide open.

The front of deep reforms is widening with every passing day. Multifaceted work is being carried out in all spheres of economic construction. The rhythm of restructuring is increasingly being felt in concrete labor deeds and accomplishments. Restructuring is entering the life of collectives, masterfully breaking down the mechanism and obsolete stereotypes, and working for socialism.

Already all of this is yielding a certain return,which will certainly constantly grow. However, already now, without exaggerating in any way what has been achieved, it can be said that a general improvement in the economic situation is taking place. Positive tendencies are gathering strength. Last year, for instance, the pace of industrial development was the highest in the past nine years. Intensive factors of economic development are manifesting themselves to an ever greater degree. Thus in 1986 the pace of growth of labor productivity in industry was 1.5 times higher than the annual average during the period of the 11th 5-Year Plan. Positive changes have taken place in the work of industries that quite recently were among those lagging behind. I am referring, first of all, to ferrous metallurgy and the oil and coal industries. Changes for the better increasingly are noticeable in the agro-industrial complex. In 1986 the greatest harvest of grain crops in the past 8 years was obtained.

The output of livestock products is growing: Advances have been taking place in the social sphere, but this is just the start. We need to move decisively ahead, to embody the ideas of restructuring in practical deeds. Here there are still quite a few difficulties to overcome, all the more so since not everything is proceeding as one would like. Much of what has been outlined is being implemented slowly, and at times half-heartedly and inconsistently. The inertia and stagnation typical of past years have still not been overcome everywhere. The new and the outmoded -- the old -- continue to mix in peaceful coexistence in a number of industries. A high degree of political maturity in our cadres and a profound understanding of the dialectics of all these processes are needed to clearly sustain the general direction and to unswervingly follow the course of bold, innovative transformations elaborated by the party.

Addressing the 20th Komsomol Congress, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed that the 12th 5-Year Plan will be difficult for us, and most difficult for all will be the next 2 or 3 years, when it is essential to achieve profound, radical advances in each of the definitive directions of restructuring the national economy. Particular importance is attached to the current 5-year plan: In addition to resolving the urgent tasks and elaborating the new economic mechamism and management system, we must lay the foundation for fulfilling the long-term program adopted at the 27th party congress. Thus our economy will be making a transition -- to use the words of Vlaidimir Ilich Lenin -- that is "extraordinarily acute and difficult, demanding different approaches, different distribution and utilization of forces, and a different aspiration, attention, psychology."

The year 1987 is indicative in this regard. Much depends on what we can do this year. The development of the economy, in strict accordance with the tasks of the 5-year plan, will take place in conditions of the implementation in practice of a number of principally new approaches, and elements of management which have been worked out by the party. We must set in motion deep-rooted factors of growth to resolve economic and social tasks. First and foremost, these are the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, the provision of a radical improvement in the quality of production, the restructuring of the investment process and the fuller use of production potential. So 1987 is the year we move toward decisive targets in carrying out restructuring in the economy, the year in which the main direction of work still to be done can be clearly seen. We must profoundly acknowledge the fact that it is precisely this year that the embodiment of the revolutionary theory of restructuring into real, concrete, tangible deeds is beginning, and that is precisely this year that is starting to be tested in practice and to take its examination in maturity. At every sector of economic construction this examination must be passed with honors.

Comrades, for acceleration to become a steady regular feature of economic growth, we must fully master its long-term factor and, first and foremost, the achievements of scientific and technical progress. Lenin said "we must master all of science, technology and all knowledge, and the arts; otherwise we will not be able to build the life of a communist society."

It is precisely this Leninist approach whih is taking on a particular significance in the period of restructuring. We must prove to the whole world the advantages and the unlimited possibilities of socialism; we must reach the foremost frontiers in the world in efficiency, quality of output and labor productivity. The resolution of these tasks in the conditions of restructuring demands a different approach in the implementation of a unified scientific and technical policy: This policy must be genuinely revolutionary and highly efficient; it is important that its implementation should ensure a rapid an radical renewal of our production potential.

The 27th CPSU Congress precisely determined that the main thing today is the consistent pursuit of the policy of reconstruction and of the technical reequipment of production equipment. This policy direction is no short-term campaign, but is the unwavering consistent policy line of the party aimed at organically linking the scientific and technical revolution taking place in the world with the far-reaching transformations in the country's economy. We must boldly and persistently advance along the most important directions of scientific and technical progress.

Above all this concerns high-technology production processes, including mechanical engineering, the creation of qualitatively new computer technology, advanced technological processes, integrated systems of highly-productive machines and equipment and new types of materials. All this is a reliable basis for a fundamental technological modernization.

At our disposal is the main ingredient in resolving the tasks of accelerating scientific and technical progress: a powerful scientific potential created by the Soviet people. But let us speak bluntly: The colossal intellectual force of society is far from being fully utilized. This is an impermissible squandering of our national wealth, our enormous asset.

The party is setting the task of stepping up in all ways the application of scientific achievements in the national economy, and of achieving a breakthrough in the main directions of scientific and technical progress. We are entitled to expect from fundamental science reliable, accelerated groundwork and a high yield so that its developments should put out rich shoots in the near future, so that the useful results of research should not be frozen in tomes of reports and publications. All valuable scientific output must immediately become reality.

A range of measures to restructure fundamental science in higher educational institutions and industries is now being implemented. This means uniting of their efforts in the wide-ranging use of the principles of competitiveness and the raising of the level of responsibility of every scientific collective and of every scientist for their contribution to the fundamental transformations of productive forces. The crux of the matter now is to achieve the integration of science and production in reality. It is precisely at this junction that we bear the greatest costs. We must take into account that science is not only in debit with regard to production, but production is also in debit with regard to science. It fosters scientific and technical achievements to an unsatisfactory degree, -- and this is true even of achievements that revolutionize production itself.

The raising in all ways of the technical level and the quality of production is a very important aim of scientific and technical progress. Quality must become the synthesis of all our achievements. This applies to technological ideas and design developments, the design of machinery and materials, the organization of labor and the enhancement of knowledge and qualifications. Concern for the high quality of production, and that it should be the norm for work, must be the primary concern of every labor collective. This is how the party now sets the task. The problem of quality is an extraordinarily acute one for us. It has developed from an economic problem into a political one. It is a question which concerns the creative abilities of socialism.

The party has aroused the entire people to the struggle for high quality. Serious organizational, political and economic measures have been adopted to prevent obsolete and poor quality output and to encourage conscientious work. We have also been compelled to take the harsh step of introducing the State Acceptance Service. This process is proceeding with difficulty at the enterprises and industries where work on output quality was neglected; in a number of cases its progress is painful. This is, above all, the case in the machine-building industry.

As a result of stricter demands, an extremely difficult situation arose at numerous enterprises of this complex during the first quarter. Machine-building industry workers failed to supply the national economy with output worth hundreds of millions of rubles. The situation is now being straightened out, but serious conclusions ought to be drawn from the first experience of the struggle for quality, since there can be no indulgence as far as this task is concerned.

The high awareness and the civic conscience of working people must be given their due. Their attitude toward measures taken and which, in the final analysis, serve the well-being of every Soviet person, is one of profound understanding. At the same time, this places a great responsibility on those in charge of the economy for providing the working class with modern equipment and the most up-to-date production processes. In other words, our task is to make the progress of science and technology serve the struggle for quality in full measure.

Comrades, the communist party makes all its intentions and actions serve the noble goal of enhancing people's prosperity, of ensuring the development and flourishing of the individual. This policy aim determines the entire thrust of acceleration.

The party has taken a resolute course of cardinal transformation in society on behalf of man and his life aspirations, needs and concerns. Priority development in the social sphere, all-round strengthening of its material and technical basis, and providing it with an up-to-date image which corresponds with a social system which is a world leader, are now a major factor of profound transformations. The main thing is to eliminate in as short a time as possible the gap that has formed between the development of production and the social sphere. Out task is to get rid of this unhealthy disproportion, which puts a brake on progress.

The party demands an intensification of social purposefulness in work at all levels of management. An end must be put to underestimation, and at times a scornful attitude to these questions. Here we must act insistently and on a broad scale, creating favorable conditions both for productive labor and for the life and consumer requirements of working people.

This must be the norm everywhere, a law for every leading official. The person who breaks it has no right to be at the head of the work force. The party and government are insistently striving to ensure that the Soviet people feel the results of restructuring and the changes for the better in social life as quickly as possible. In 1986 there was more housing, kindergartens and hospitals constructed than ever before. Considering the acute nature of this problem however, even more must be done, of course. The Central Committee recently adopted a decision to substantially increase the rates of construction of housing and of social and cultural institutions in the remaining years of the 5-year plan period. Now much depends on the initiative and organization of work both at the center and locally. Frequently, this is just what we lack. While noting certain positive changes for the better, it is not possible to say a decisive turn has taken place everywhere in the development of the social sphere. In many industries, republics and oblasts, the plans for construction of social and cultural amenities have not been fulfilled, capital investments are not fully taken up, and poor quality housing is handed over, as are kindergartens and much besides.

It is obvious that not everyone here has yet restructured himself. Without belittling the significance of other tasks in the sphere of social and cultural development, it must be said that the most acute problem at the moment is that of housing. We have taken on a major obligation to the people, to resolve this question over 15 years. In this, we must put into operation all the opportunities, and use to the maximumm degree all the existing resources, state capital investments, the funds of labor collectives, and expand the scope of construction of cooperative and individual housing.

It is quite obvious this task is a nationwide one, and it will be extremely difficult to resolve it without the energetic participation of all working people. We must have a clear-cut, specific action program, with the stages of its implementation defined. One of the ways to achieve this goal is the active utilization of the results of a change to multishift working. Thanks to greater returns on capacities already in operation, this makes it possible to avoid more production construction and redistribute resources to resolve the urgent social problems of labor collectives.

Efforts are growing to increase the production of consumer goods and services and to improve their range and quality. The decisive reduction -- by almost half in 2 years -- of the production of alcoholic drinks has been of considerable help in making progress in the structure of people's consumption. It is even more important since this is connected with the assertion of a healthy way of life, the results of which are already making themselves felt, both in production and in the household.

The implementation of a strong social policy is the firm line of the party, and it will be consistently, implemented. What is needed for its success is the efforts of the whole of society. The only source of its well-being and of further raising living standards is an ever increasing contribution by the working people to the common cause and multiplying the public wealth.

The labor of each person must be evaluated by its concrete results. That is the basis of our social justice. It is incompatible with excessive wage levelling and must create real advantages for collective and workers who work creatively and give a high performance.

We must fully implement the principle of social justice and in relation to all the requirements of a person and not only on issues regarding pay.

The expansion of cooperative and individual forms of labor activity is in accordance with the interests of the person and with the development of initiative. In modern conditions the party goes deeper in interpreting, developing and implementing in practice Lenin's ideas on cooperation. An important role is assigned to it in guaranteeing the increasingly varied requirements of the people for goods and services. Cooperative forms will become a substantial supplement to the state system of satisfying the demands of Soviet people. All unfounded obstacles along this road must be lifted.

It is extremely important that everything new which is entering the social life of society should everywhere receive effective support and become widespread and that concern for personal welfare should always be at the center of attention of party, local soviet and economic bodies.

Comrades, the cause of restructuring can only be really advanced on the basis of steady economic development. It must not depend on the influence of destabilizing factors of different kinds, including factors involving nature.

What does the work of the national economy in the first quarter show? In January a sharp slump was permitted to occur. It was a consequence of the fact that many industries and union republics turned out to be unprepared for work in the new, tougher conditions and had proven unable to sever the burden of the past and to remove the growths of mismanagement from the live tissue of the economy. The harsh winter only highlighted more clearly our shortcomings; it made them even worse. Due to measures taken the state of affairs in the first quarter has been substantially corrected.

This testifies to the fact that we have possibilities for stable growth. Of course, restructuring in the economy just like any decisive change, is a complicated, difficult matter. But there is no retreat and even less is there any reconciliation with some workers' attachment to old methods, with the nonacceptance of whatever is new. The resolving of the tasks the country is facing demands the complete and wholehearted devotion of all labor collctives and of each worker, and the strict fulfillment of plan tasks and obligations.

The all-union communist subbotnik dedicated to the 117th anniversary of Lenin's birthday was a real festive day of labor. Some 160 million workers, kolkhoz personnel, office workers, pensioners, and students showed a high level of political and labor activity and marked this without hesitation the chosen path.

Our task is to follow without hesitation the chosen path in an atmosphere of innovative creation, to get restructuring to reach all corners of the country without exception, to reach each labor collective, each person. It is necessary to struggle for restructuring in a Leninist way, passionately and persistently, just as the Bolsheviks struggled for the revolution and for the victory of socialism. [applause]

Socialist Democracy Is the Main Lever for Accelerating Soviet Society's Development [subhead]

Comrades, life has taught us to understand more deeply and to evaluate particularly highly the truth that socialism, as Lenin never tired of repeating, is the living creativity of the masses. The interests of the development of a socialist society persistently require conditions for the free development of this creativity and the elimination of everything that might suppress or fetter the initiative of the people. This is a key task.

It is precisely thus that the question was put by the Central Committee January Plenum whose decisions are directed toward radical democratization. The party sees both the objective and the main lever of restructuring of all aspects of our political, social, and economic practice and spiritual life in the development of full-blooded democracy.

Much has prepared us and brought us to the point where we can resolutely continue with the job of the development of socialist democracy. Since April 1985 the party's daily work has been built taking into account the principled conclusions of the Central Committee on the need to give more impetus to the human factor, to improve openness. The problem of democracy as a whole was placed at the center of attention. The lessons of the past -- both inspiring and hard, bitter ones -- have fostered this conclusion.

More democracy is a slogan which has become both necessary and possible to put forward in conditions of the high ideological and political maturity of the Soviet people, when the principles and values of socialism have been firmly established as the determining basis of social consciousness. In this sense the ideas and decisions of the January plenum rest both on the results of the recent work which has been done and on all the achievements of socialism. Socialism has transformed the formerly downtrodden and submissive masses of working people into a highly educated, politically literate people that knows the value of civic awareness and responsibility. Socialist democracy is an all-embracing mechanism for expressing and taking account the opinions, attitudes and interests existing in society. It is an irreplaceable means of administration, capable of responding in good time to people's requests, a unique school of bringing up a citizen of the motherland.

There was a difficult task facing the Central Committee 2 years ago. We had to break through the trends of stagnation to begin a resolute struggle against phenomena alien to socialism. The CPSU was required to confirm in action its vanguard role in society, to prove that it was and remains the party of revolutionary thought and revolutionary action. The party solved this task honorably. As a result there has been a colossal rise in its prestige. Its innovatory policy has received the very widest, the very sincerest support from the people. [applause]

While appealing to the Soviet people for a renewal of our society, the party by its example and by its own activity showed how we must restructure ourselves. The party started restructuring with itself. It is throwing aside everything that doomed the party organizations to inertia. It is aiming to ensure that strict observance of Leninist norms of party life, and principles of leadership and communist morality, and all-round development of internal political democracy should imbue the activity of all its links, from primary organizations to the Central Committee. At the Central Committee January Plenum it was proclaimed that responsibility for the many difficulties and acts of negligence which had become a brake on our development is borne by the leading organs of the party and state. This position of the CPSU, which is principled in a Leninist way and self-critical in a Bolshevik way, was justly perceived by the working people as an expression of the party's ability and readiness to move aside everything hindering the opening up of the creative potential of socialism.

The courage and maturity of the party lies in this. Only a strong, confident party which is progressing can openly admit its shortcomings and openly speak about them. [applause]

The Soviet people warmly approve of the course of restructuring and want to ensure movement along the intended path will not halt, and there will be no deviation. This places upon the party the responsibility of ensuring reliable guarantees of the irreversibility of the changes which have begun. By caring for its own healthy development and persistently striving for the expansion and deepening of socialist democracy, the party is creating such guarantees and is making them increasingly solid.

Restructuring in the life of the party serves as a binding example for the decisive turning toward democracy in all links of our political system. It is the civic duty of the people's deputies, workers of the apparatus of administration, heads of departments, of establishments and enterprises, and activists of public organizations to evaluate their own activity just as exactingly and self-critically.

Let us be frank. The soviets -- one of the most important institutions of socialist democracy -- do not everywhere have the role given them by the October Revolution. They are not always the pioneers and organizers of the people's initiative, which they must be without fail in conditions of restructuring. The party is taking all measures to release the energy and unleash the initiatives of the soviets. The new decisions on further democratization in elections to soviets of people's deputies are directed toward this. The words Lenin addressed to the working people of Russia during the days of the establishment of socialist democracy must indeed become a motto: "Your soviets henceforth are organs of state power -- plenipotentiary, deciding organs. Strengthen them; get down to business yourselves at the grassroots."

The congresses of the trade unions and the Komsomol, the creative unions and other public organizations ended with the adoption of principled decisions. They are called upon to make their weighty contribution to restructuring, to encourage more participation by the working people in it, and to elevate them to further accomplishments. Understandably, it is not enough to adopt fine resolutions in order to achieve this; what is needed is intensive work so as to get away from ostentation and stereotypes and decades of the overgrown skin of formalism.

The expansion of democracy is a distinctive feature of the transformation in the economy. Changes in the national economy meet to the full Lenin's demand "to carry out democratic centralism in economic management." Lenin saw the strength of democratic centralism in the active interaction of both its aspects, centralized planned management and the broad initiative of the masses. Incidentally, for many years the role of the center was unjustifiably exaggerated, whereas matters never got beyond words concerning the development of democracy in production.

Now, when the economy has acquired a colossal scale, when the complexity of administering it has risen many times over, when fundamentally new tasks face the country, and when the level of cadre potential has increased immeasurably, the content of centralism becomes qualitatively different. The center is called upon to concentrate its efforts on the strategic problems of the national economy and on looking after the interests of the state as a whole, getting determinedly away from the detailed regulation of the work of teams at the grass-roots level. Economic methods of management, its assured flexibility and effectiveness, and all-round support for everything of value conceived among the masses locally are being brought to the forefront.

This kind of approach presupposes a radical restructuring of the central economic departments, above all the USSR State Planning Committee. Radical changes must be carried out in the activity of industrial and territorial management bodies. Democratism must become a norm in their internal life and must determine the style and methods of all their work.

Another aspect of democratic centralism is also filled with new content: democracy at local level and in workers' collectives. In conditions where the role of the human factor is growing and when a creative and involved attitude to the job in hand is needed of each collective and worker, democracy lies in prospect in the economy in new forms: self-management, appointments by elections [vybornost], and real opportunities for working people to influence the solution of production and social tasks. All this requires radical reform and a revolutionary shattering of the stereotypes that have been formed and have led the economy to a retarded condition.

The restructuring of management has begun at the basic unit of production -- the enterprise. Large-scale experiments, having served as a test-base, have laid down a path to switch to new economic management conditions in the most important industries of the economy, and have prepared a basis for the introduction, now under way, of complete financial autonomy and self-financing.

The principles of the party's economic strategy have found their reflection in the Draft Law on State Enterprises. The significance of this document is great: It affords enterprises wide opportunities and at the same time charges them with responsibility for the results of their activity and defines the economic and legal conditions for bringing about complete financial autonomy and self-management.

The draft law on the whole has been welcomed with approval. The Soviet people have greeted this document with great interest. The essence of literally every article in it is being discussed. Indeed, it could not be otherwise. After all, the draft law affects radical questions of the life of labor collectives and the personal interests of the working people.

There is clear evidence of the support for the new approaches to management contained in this document in the fact that some of its most important provisions, such as the elective principle in the appointment of economic managers, are already being applied in production collectives. Democratization in the economy is putting forward qualitatively new and very important forms of socialist competition, economic competition. This is competitiveness, the struggle of the enterprise to produce with minimum expenditure the goods the national economy needs and to obtain income on that basis, whose dimensions will wholly determine production and social position and the prospect for labor collectives' development.

It is precisely these conditions that are being created now by full financial autonomy and self-financing. The idea of economic competition permeatese the entire Draft Law on State Enterprises. The law will become the foundation for a future integral system of management.

Next in line is the solution of other complicated tasks. We have to determine the structure of industry and regional management, the role and place of every link in the national economy complex. These transformations will be carried out in the context of the basic provisions of the law on state enterprises. Unquestionably there will be a need to implement measures also for improving the work of the USSR Council of Ministers. Ways to bring about the qualitative restructuring of the management of the economy, as is known, will be examined at the next plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, for which preparations are actively under way.

It is understandable that the final development of all the elements of an integrated system of management will require time. There will also be difficulties and, possibly, temporary setbacks, since what is old and obsolete opposes what is progressive and incipient.

We must act decisively and persistently, confident of success. There is a guarantee of this in the all-round support of our people who know firmly that restructuring is in line with their fundamental interests. [prolonged applause] After all, their revolutionary sweep and the boldness of the way that matters are put, the profound transformations of productive forces, the improvement in production relations and their being brought into line with the real demands of life, are comparable to Lenin's turn toward the New Economic Policy. Of course, one must not see the New Economic Policy and today's restructuring as identical; the former was a policy of the transitional period from capitalism to socialism; but at the same time, many of Lenin's points about the use of commodity-money relations, financial autonomy and incentives for collective and individual labor activity preserve their force. Life has shown that their application has a long-term character, and does not by any means signify a departure from the gains of socialism. That is precisely why our party, creatively developing Lenin's ideas, is putting them to the service of restructuring in the new economic situation. [applause]

Comrades! The success of restructuring will be determined by convinced people, by those who are competent and able to inspire and lead the masses. This goes to show once again the immense importance of political , educational, and organizational work with cadres. Now that we have to cast off what we have become accustomed to over the decades, to learn afresh while on the move, and to change our working methods, particular importance is attached to qualities such as the ability to make a considered analysis of any situations, however complicated, not being afraid of novelty in a solution, not losing one's head, and even of being able to extract positive lessons from negative experiences.

All this places high demands on those in leadership positions. A leader should be characterized by a sense of party principle, professionalism, and acute sense of what is new, lofty moral qualities, and an organic need to live for the concerns of the state and the concerns of the collective. At the same time it is very important to curb those who would replace restructuring with talking and drawn it in words. As Lenin warned, "those who endlessly babble and allow themselves to be carried away with shows of revolutionary zeal but are incapable of sustained, thought-out, and considered work, taking account of the most difficult revolutinary transitions, must not be given free rein." Restructuring requires thoughtful and enterprising work and a concern for real results from management cadres both in Moscow, in central departments, and -- as the phrase goes -- out in the sticks.

They are all doing essential work, and the responsibility on them is huge. That responsibility extends to seeing that there is no red tape or bureaucratic practice in their work. Yet this bureaucratic disease is still strong, and the Soviet people are right to be annoyed that paperwork, pointless meetings, consultations, and similar examples of bureaucratic fuss hold sway. We have now unleashed the most resolute and implacable frontal attack on bureaucratic practices.

There is special value for us in the struggle against shortcomings in practical achievements -- value greater than the loudest words of indignation. Every success of restructuring, every new shoot is dear to us, and from this viewpoint the atmosphere of openness that has now become established is of exceptional importance. Openness is not only our true assistant in the support, publicizing, and spreading of positive experience.

It is, of course, also impermissible to lay down the weapons of criticism. On the contrary, it must be perfected and honed. The ability to criticize and correctly absord criticism is an indispensable element of the political culture of socialism of the culture of human relations in the conditions of democracy. The right to criticize is inseparable from the right to object to criticism, to defend one's view. Without such equal relations between those who criticize and those who are criticized there is no real democracy.

However sharp the turnaround we are making in our society, the struggle for transformations is proceeding in a healthy, comradely environment. All the Soviet people are united by their common fundamental interests, by the striving toward the flourishing of our homeland, toward the complete opening up of the creative might of socialism.

Today, responding to the appeal of the CPSU Central Committee in connection with the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution, they combine the whole of their intellect, their will and energy to fulfill everything that has been planned, to worthily continue the great cause of the socialist revolution, Lenin's immortal cause. [prolonged applause]

Restructuring International Relations is an Urgent Call of the Time [subhead]

Comrades, Leninism has been and remains the theoretical basis of our understanding of international life in the present era. Lenin created a scientific system of views regarding problems of war and peace, and worked out the concept of the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems. The Leninist principles of our foreign policy have undergone the rigorous testing of historical practice and now they are really effectively serving the struggle which the Soviet state is waging for a radical restructuring of international relations. In this struggle we are guided by new political thinking, which reflects the realities of today's world, which is full of contradictions and conflicts, but is nevertheless an integral and interconnected entity.

A period of nearly 70 years separates Lenin's Decree on Peace from the fundamentals of the comprehensive system of international security put forward by the 27th party congress. But how akin these documents are in their meaning and spirit! Both are permeated by the passionate idea of the freeing of mankind from the horrors of war and its consequences. Both uphold the supreme right of man -- the right to life and the right of the peoples to peaceful development. Ensuring a lasting peace has been and remains the supreme goal of the foreign policy activities of the Communist Party and Soviet state, a goal that follows from the very nature of socialist society.

As Lenin emphasized, the end of wars, peace among peoples, and the cessation of plunder and violence are our ideal." It embodies the humanism of communist ideology and its moral values. The realities of the nuclear space age give this ideal a qualitatively new meaning: the aim of world without wars, without the threat of violence in any sphere of international affairs, military, political, economic, and humanitarian.

Our new philosophical vision of the world takes as its starting point the view that, in the present age, security cannot be built on nuclear deterrence or other variations on the policy of strength. This policy condenms man to the permanent threat of self-destruction and deprives him of hope in the future. And there is now no more important task than the struggle against the threat of nuclear catastrophe, for the curbing of the arms race, and for disarmament.

The all-embracing program for the total elimination -- before the end of the century -- of weapons of mass destruction which was put forward at the beginning of 1986 by Mikhail Sergveyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is in keeping with this epochal task.

Historic in its scale and significance, it underwent further development in the USSR's proposals at the Soviet-U.S. meeting at Reykjavik. The fundamental possibility of a world free of nuclear weapons was demonstrated there for the first time. But, as is known a shift to practical measures on this path was blocked by the U.S. Administration. The Soviet initiative to conclude urgently a separate agreement on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe once again opened up the way to mutually acceptable accords.

In the search for a solution we are proposing at the same time to reach agreement also on operational and tactical missiles to fully eliminate within a brief period our missiles of this class in Europe. But of course, this rules out an upgrading of weapons by the United States. We are ready to eliminate tactical battlefield missiles. The Soviet Union has ceased to produce chemical weapons and is pushing for the most rapid completion of talks on the total banning everywhere of these weapons and the destruction of their stockpiles.

The proposals on reducing armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe remain in force. The USSR, along with the other Warsaw Pact countries, believes that future agreements on disarmament questions should provide for a very strict and effective system of verification [kontrol], including on-site inspection.

Having separated out the question of medium-range missiles from the Reykjavik "package," the Soviet leadership still attaches primary significance to reaching an agreement on the substantial reduction and subsequent elimination of strategic armaments, which must, of course, be inextricably linked with an obligation to observe the Antiballistic Missile Defense Treaty.

Nobody has any right to rebuke us by saying that the Soviet initiatives are intended to gain unilateral advantages. We take into account the legitimate interests of our Western partners, because we know that there will be no progress or lasting agreements without a balance of interests.

For that reason, we for our part also have every justification to expect reciprocity. The Soviet Union will never agree to concessions through which the security of our country or that of its allies might suffer. We will never accept steps that jeopardize the destiny of mankind. [applause] As long as the threat of war persists in the world, we will continue to strengthen our glorious Armed Forces. The CPSU Central Committee emphasized with the utmost responsibility in its address to the people that the Communist Party and the Soviet state "will do everything necessary to maintain our country's and the socialist community's defense capability at an appropriate level. The Soviet people can be confident tht we will never permit imperialism to have a military advantage under any circumstances." [prolonged applause]

The new political thinking, the dynamism and openness [otkrytost] of our foreign policy, and the quest for solutions to important problems in the interests of the survival of mankind, are meeting with growing understanding in the world. The broadest public circles abroad, including those far distant from socialism, are impressed by the link between the Soviet Union's line of improving international relations and the course of restructuring of all aspects of the life of Soviet society, of democratizing it, of openness [glasnost].

Our political enemies are finding it increasingly difficult to insinuate their demagogic inventions about the "closed socialist society" and about "socialism's ambitions to expand." The realities of the age have faced all states with the need to learn to live together and to solve together the problems of their security. In these conditions the Soviet Union will do everything to promote the strengthening of trust in international affairs.

Progress here is easiest of all through mutual example. The world sees we are not only ready for this, but we are also acting convincingly and vigorously. We are profoundly confident of the triumph of communist ideals. Any aspirations to spread socialism by force are alien to our world outlook. If, over the past 70 years, socialism has become a world reality, this is the result of the action of objective social laws.

We favor ideological differences being solved by history; we want the peoples themselves to choose the paths of their social and political development. The fate of peace and social progress is linked in the very closest way with the development of the world system of socialism, with the all-round cooperation of the Soviet Union with the fraternal countries, and with our unity and cohesion. The CPSU sees the deepening of the collaboration of socialist states as a priority direction of its international activity. We are striving to ensure that everything new in our internal and external policy fully responds to the interests of all countries of socialism, all democratic forces of the planet, and the whole of humanity.

Comrades, a new vision of the world, an awareness of its diversity, its contradictions and, at the same time, those things that are common to it, also determine our approach to foreign economic relations. The economy of the modern world has many faces -- the socialist and capitalist means of production, the developing states with their mixed economies, poverty and wealth, age-old backwardness and technical progress -- such are the realities of our time.

A struggle is going on in the world economy -- at times a most acute one -- against the diktat of the imperialist forces, a struggle for a new economic order -- a just and democratic one -- for a decisive rejection of all attempts at discrimination and the use of economic relations as a means of political pressure. However, something else is clear, too. With all the contradictions and antagonisms, the economic interdependence of the states of the world community is being intensified. No country, big or small, can today command all the heights of the scientific and technical revolution without an intensive exchange of scientific developments and without the most varied forms of international cooperation.

Having embarked upon a course of restructuring, the CPSU intends to expand to the full our participation in the world distribution of labor. This is a matter, first and foremost, of cooperation within the framework of CEMA, which is, and will continue to be, at the heart of our foreign economic relations. We can see an organic link between domestic problems of acceleration and the dynamism of socialist economic integration. In recent years unsolved problems have begun to pile up in it, there have been instances of stagnation and new forms of cooperation have not been disseminated as much as they should. Cardinal questions of deepening economic interaction and improving CEMA activity were thoroughly examined at the working meeting of the leaders of the fraternal parties of the socialist countries in Moscow last November.

They were unanimously of the opinion that our cooperation needs changes of a comprehensive nature, and a decisive renovation of its form and methods. Such work has now begun in areas concerning all aspects of the integration mechanism. A definitive role has to be played in this by the comprehensive program for the scientific and technological progress of the CEMA countries. This program is unprecedented in the depth of the structural changes its implementation will bring about in the economies of the countries taking part and in the socialist international division of labor.

Its aim is to achieve the highest level in the most important areas of scientific and technological progress. By its entire content, the program refutes the assertions of those who champion SDI that successes in science and technology are inseparable for developments in the military sphere alone.

Socialism points another way -- the peaceful way, not connected with the arms race or taking it into space. On the basis of equal partnership, our ties with the developing countries are becoming stronger -- and first and foremost those with states of a socialist orientation. As ever, the Soviet Union is on the side of the peoples struggling for freedom and progress and for national independence. Along with them, we advocate a new economic order and opposing any forms of international plunder and discrimination.

We are also in favor of intensive economic cooperation with the capitalist countries. We have established lasting and mutually beneficial business ties with many of them. The restructuring of our foreign economic activity opens up fresh opportunities for further development of such cooperation.

Side by side with the broadening of the traditional trade relations we are proceeding toward active utilization of the new forms of economic relations: wide production cooperation, the creation of joint enterprises, and collaboration in scientific and technical progress. As this is mutually advantageous, it arouses considerable interest among Western business circles. However, this whole process would have moved considerably more quickly if artificial barriers had not been created with the manifest aim of putting political pressure on us with regard to fundamental questions of our social life.

Economic relations with the capitalist world can be built only on the principles of mutuality and equal rights. This is, as they say, a two-way street. Any attempts to extract political tribute from our economic links with the capitalist countries are pointless and have no hope of success. Our country will never barter its principles or its gains. [prolonged applause]

We are always open to equal and mutually advantageous cooperation and we see in it an important factor of progress and improvement of the international situation.

In today's conditions, when the world has found itself facing the dilemma of whether mankind will survive, more and more people are joining the struggle against danger of war and for the preservation of peace. The communists and other forces of progress always stand in the frontlines of this struggle. The CPSU is an indivisible part of the world communist movement. Its solidarity with other communist parties is unfailing. We stand for equal, broad, and active contacts between communists from various countries, irrespective of the existing differences in views on various issues, and for raising the role of the international communist movement in world development.

The Soviet communists see their main contribution to the common cause of the entire movement as being to build up the strength of example of socialism as a real alternative to the system of exploitation. Efficient progress along the path of revolutionary restructuring today is our main national and internationalist duty. [applause]

Comrades, whatever task life sets before the party of the working class, Vladimir Ilich Lenin always indissolubly linked its solution with the struggle for the fundamental aims of socialism. Restructuring is the incarnation of everything new -- new ideas, schemes, and achievements. It has fulfilled our struggle with new and lofty meaning. It has given the people an aim worthy of their historic vocation. The Soviet people understand that the country's future and fate of socialism and of all of world civilization depends on the success of the transformations started in the USSR.

This is how the responsibility lying on our party and on our people today is defined. Our slogan is act -- act for the sake of a better life today and for the sake of achieving the final goal of restructuring; that is, the profound renewal of society. To live and act in the awareness of this responsibility is the party obligation of every communist, and the patriotic and moral duty of every Soviet person. To open up fully the huge creative potential and the advantages of our system -- this is the essence of the great stage of history the Soviet Union is going through. The path of revolutionary transformation on which we have set forth is the only true path. The will and labor of millions will raise our homeland to a qualitatively new level of economic, social and spiritual progress.

It will appear to the world as a mighty power, embodying the whole of beauty and humanity, the whole greatness and attractive force of socialism. Restructuring is inspired by Lenin's actions, by Lenin's theory of victory. It will be victorious.

UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE ADDRESSES ISSUES

AU221500 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 17 Apr 87 p 3

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Excerpts] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo has examined the organizational and political work carried out in the republic in compliance with the CPSU Central Committee decision on preparations for the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. [passage omitted]

Tasks were examined in connection with implementing in the republic the decision of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU to switch associations, enterprises, and organizations of industry and other national economic branches over to multi-shift operations to raise production efficiency. [passage omitted]

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and Council of Ministers have made a decision and endorsed measures to implement in the republic the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on additional measures to hasten the developing mechanization of agriculture. [passage omitted]

In conformity with a decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers, measures have been examined to improve the work of kolkhoz markets. To more fully satisfy the population's need for foodstuffs, kolkhoz markets all over the republic are to be transferred from the system of the Ukrainian Ministry of Trade to the sphere of consumers societies. To strengthen the material-technical base of kolkhoz markets, it has been envisaged in 1988-90 to assign for this purpose resources obtained by reducing income taxes from consumers societies. Provisions have been made to significantly expand the network of kolkhoz and sovkhoz stores at kolkhoz markets. Oblispolkoms, gorispolkoms, and rayispolkoms along with the organizations of consumers societies have been charged with full responsibility for the control of kolkhoz markets, for providing the conditions necessary for their work, and for strengthening their material-technical base.

Ways to implement the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decision to improve activity conditions for creative unions have been discussed. [passage omitted]

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and Council of Ministers have adopted a decision awarding Ukrainian SSR state prizes for outstanding labor achievements scored in 1986. The decision will be published in the press.

UKRAINE PRESIDIUM APPOINTS NEW PRICE CHAIRMAN

AU210940 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 12 Apr 87 p 3

["A Decree of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to appoint Comrade Dmitriy Grigoryevich Nedashkovskiy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Committee on Prices.

[Signed] V. Shevchenko, chairman, and N. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

City of Kiev, 10 April 1987.

Born in 1930, D.G. Nedeshkovskiy is a Ukrainian, a CPSU member since 1961, and has a higher education. He graduated from the Finance and Economic Institute in Kiev.

After graduation from the institute in 1954, he worked as a sector chief in the budget department in Vinnitsa Oblispolkom and then as an economist, a senior economist, a senior controller and auditor, a department chief, and a deputy chief of the control and audit administration in the apparatus of the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance.

As of 1963, he was engaged in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee apparatus as a sector chief and a department deputy chief; since 1975, as chief of the Planning and Financial Organs Department, and since 1983, as Economic Department chief in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee.

He is a member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee.

He was a deputy to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet of the 10th and the 11th convocation.

PLENUM RELIEVES DNEPROPETROVSK OFFICIAL OF DUTIES

LD201850 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya newscast; read by announcer]

[Text] A plenum of the Dnepropetrovsk party committee today examined an organizational question. The plenum relieved Boyko of the duties of first secretary of the obkom for violating the principle of collective leadership of the obkom bureau, serious shortcomings in the style of work, and errors in the selection of cadres.

Comrade Ivashko, secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, was elected first secretary of the Dnepropetrovsk obkom.

Comrade Shcherbitskiy spoke at the plenum.

NIKONOV ADDRESSES FARM ASSOCIATION'S FOUNDING

PM211331 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Along the Path of Integration"]

[Text] Spasskoye (Tula Oblast) 10 Apr -- Tula agro-industrial association enterprises have a new colleague. The Novomoskovskoye Agro-Industrial Association has been set up here. At a meeting of authorized agents today the association's council, board, and chairman were elected.

The meeting was addressed by V.P. Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He emphasized that since 1983, step by step, conditions for the dynamic and steady development of all sectors are being created in the country's agriculture. The multifaceted creative work is beginning to produce positive results. These are of fundamental importance because they inspire confidence that the phenomena of stagnation that have built up in the work of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and the enterprises and organizations servicing them can soon be overcome.

Experience to bear this out has already been accumulated in many parts of the country. The activity of agro-industrial associations set up earlier in the Kuban, Stavropol Kray, Moscow Oblast, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and the Baltic republics testifies to the effectiveness of the formations using the new methods of management. Here production and social problems are resolved more swiftly, returns on investments are high, and losses of the products obtained in the fields and at livestock units are reduced to naught. Produce in processed without delay at enterprises that are part of the associations and are delivered to consumers via the associations' own trade network. It is to be applauded that Novomoskovsky Rayon working people have decided to follow the experience of these associations, and not just to follow it but to develop it further: In the newly set up association state and cooperative property is being completely merged.

A separate apparatus of association specialists who will be responsible to the board and its chairman is being set up. A number of specialists from the former rayon agro-industrial association will become part of the appartus and the remaining one will take up production posts.

Financing operations within the association will be carried out through its own accounting and financial center rather than a bank. This will make it possible to hold on to all the profits obtained and to channel them into the expansion of production and the resolution of social tasks. The association will also have convertible currency at its disposal for dealing with foreign partners.

The management structure of the new association, while making provision for maximum democratization, will eliminate many problems pertaining to the further intensification of production, help to speed up the introduction of economic accountability in all subdivisions, effect the switch to self-financing, and -- most important -- achieve a radical acceleration in the production of food products for a large industrial region.

Detailing the tasks facing the association, V.P. Nikonov emphasized that good preconditions exists for their fulfillment. The rayon's farms obtain an average more than 30 quintals of grain per hectare and more than 3,000 kg of milk per cow. The V.I. Lenin Kohkhoz is renowned throughout the country for its achievements. It is headed by Hero of Socialist Labor V.A. Starodubtsev. [paragraph continues]

It was no accident that he was unanimously elected chairman of the new association at the meeting. The most immediate task is to achieve the same results as this farm, which has been designated the base enterprise.

At the meeting the progress of the restructuring of the work of the oblast's agro-industrial complex was analyzed in detail and the tasks facing rural workers in the light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum were discussed.

V.P. Nikonov visited the Lenin Kolkhoz and a number of processing industry enterprises in Tula Oblast. He was accompanied by L.B. Yermin, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the RSFSR Gosagroprom [State Agro-Industrial Committee]; Yu. I. Litvintsev, first secretary of the CPSU Obkom; and D.I. Kondrashov, chairman of the Oblispolkom.

MURAKHOVSKIY ADDRESSES AGRO-INDUSTRIAL STUDENTS

PM211533 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 15 Apr 87 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Agro-Industrial Cadres Training"]

[Text] Two groups of directors of scientific research institutes under the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee [Gosagroprom] and the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences and rectors and branch directors of the country's agricultural VUZ's underwent 2 weeks of training at the USSR Gosagroprom's All-Union Higher School for Management of the Agro-Industrial Complex. The participants studied topical questions concerning the acceleration of the socioeconomic of the country and the agro-industrial complex and the practical implementation of the tasks set by the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum.

Particular attention was devoted to the improvement of the administration and economic management machinery in the agro-industrial complex; the transition to normative methods of planning, complete economic accountability, and self-capitalizing; and the introduction of contracts.

The participants were addresed by I.I. Skiba, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Department; V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosagroprom; G.A. Yagodin, USSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education; M.B. Ryzhikov, AUCCTU secretary and chairman of the Agro-Industrial Complex Workers Union Central Committee; USSR Minister A.I. Iyevlev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Gosagroprom; Academician A.A. Nikonov, president of the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Academician A.G. Aganbegyan of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and others.

The participants visited the All-Union Poultry Breeding Scientific Research and Technology Institute, the "Podmoskovye" Science and Production Association, the "Shchapovo" Experimental Model Farm, the All-Union Scientific Research and Planning-Technological Institute for Chemicalization, and Moscow's K.A. Timiryazev Agricultural Academy.

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL OFFICIAL SPEAKS ON RESTRUCTURING

LD212302 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] A news conference was held in Moscow today dedicated to the activities of the agro-industrial complex under the conditions of restructuring. Leading specialists and managers of the USSR gosagroprom participated in it. Here is what Aleksandr Ivanovich Iyevlev, first deputy chairman of the State Agro-Industrial Committee and a USSR minister, said about those changes that are taking place in the industry now:

[Begin Iyevlev recording] Now we are carrying out a great deal of work on switching enterprises and farms to total financial autonomy and self-financing. In some places we are introducing new progressive forms of organization of payment for labor. Collective team contracting has become popular in the last year. On only the kolkhozes and sovkhozes over 410,000 teams and brigades are working in conditions of team contracting. This amounts to nearly 8 million people. Legal right was granted to family and individual contracting. Over 2,000 kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the country have introduced wage payments from gross income -- this is the most progressive form, from our point of view, which coordinates closely the wages of the working people not only with the level of production but also with the level of expenditure on the enterprise. An active serch for new forms of enterprise organization is under way. In a form of an experiment we have created in the country 22 agro-industrial combines and 4 agro firms. Systems of production are developed that represent complete, multi-branch, narrowly specialized and integrated groups, where agricultural production is organizationally merged with an industrial processing of output. [end recording]

Comrade Iyevlev dwelt in detail on the results of the activity of the agro-industrial complex for last year. This was basically the first year of work of the agro-industrial committee as a single production-economic system.

[Begin Iyevlev recording] In 1986 the gross output of agricultural produce amounted to R219.2 billion. This is R17 million more than the average per year of the 11th 5-Year Plan. Compared with 1985 the increase in the production of agricultural output was 5.1 percent. In the food industry the volume of trade goods increased by 4.89 percent a year. The rate of increase last year compared preceding years was nearly double. The gross output of grain crops has reached 210.1 million tonnes, or 30 million tonnes more than the annual average of the 11th 5-Year Plan. Animal farming showed a steady development. For 4 consecutive years the plans for purchasing animal produce have been overfulfilled; the largest increase was in 1986. Fast rates of increase have been maintained this year also; for the first quarter of 1987 compared with the same time last year, the purchase of livestock and poultry has increased by 10 percent throughout the country, milk by 8 percent, eggs by 2 percent. Half a million tonnes of livestock and poultry and [figures indistinct] of milk have been purchased above last year's figures. Fast rates of growth have been secured in industry. The rate of growth of marketable produce of the industry for the first quarter was 7 percent. [end recording]

Information was given at the news conference about the cooperation of the state Agro-Industrial Committee with foreign countries. Over 100 kolkhozes and sovkhozes have direct links with them. The groundwork for the creation of joint enterprises is being carried out.

[Begin Iyevlev recording] There are real prerequisites for the organization of several joint enterprises, first of all with Bulgaria and Poland. A protocol has ben signed on the intention to create joint enterprises for the manufacture of commodity packaging materials with the firms of Pechiney, France; Tetra Pak, Sweden; and John Brown, England; for the manufacture of concentrated juices with Pepsi of the United States and Agrotekh of Italy; and for the processing of leather materials with the Chirevich Corporation of the United States and some others. [end recording]

'POSITIVE CHANGE' INITIATED IN COLLECTIVE FARMS

LD152040 Moscow TASS in English 0709 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS -- Positive change has been initiated in the work of collective farms but reorganization demands drastic transformations, Ivan Kukhar, head of the National Council of Collective Farms, the central self-governing body of the Soviet farming cooperatives, told TASS.

The 27th CPSU Congress characterized dependable food supply as one of the more important tasks facing the country. Last year was encouraging: Collective farms and state farms expanded production by five per cent. Today the collective farms generate almost fifty percent of the gross farm output.

But we cannot help being worried by the fact that many farms still are operating at a loss: They are slow to increase the rate of growth in grain and livestock production. Acceleration will be impossible if they continue to perform like that. We have analyzed many shortcomings at meetings of our national council and local collective farm councils. As many as 81,000 veteran collective farms and specialists sit on those councils.

We are trying to use our main reserve and switch everywhere to intensive methods of crop farming and livestock breeding and achieve self-sufficiency.

Today's practice raises a number of questions related to the further broadening of collective farm democracy. Everyone knows that too many officials continue to meddle in the affairs of farm cooperatives, forgetting, as it were, that the collective farm is not a governmental agency but an association of farmers who join forces voluntarily to grow grain or breed livestock. It is more than time to give heed to democratic forms of management and openness.

New forms of planning and financing have had a positive effect on the performance of collective farms. They now have the right to use above-quota output at their discretion and have more leeway in providing incentives to members for the end results of their work. The collective farm is free to buy or build what it wants and does with its profits what it thinks fit. This is collective farm democracy in action, Ivan Kukhar said.

MID-APRIL WEATHER, CROP STATUS REVIEWED

PM210853 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Apr 87 p 3

[Agrometeorologist S. Malikova report: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] The weather remains cool in the eastern Ukraine, Rostov Oblast, and the Volga Valley, Urals, and Northern regions. The air temperature was 2-5 degrees lower than the long-term average. There was abundant precipitation in the form of rain or snow in the Crimean, Nikolayev, Zaporozhye, Donetsk, Voroshilovgrad, Kharkov, and Rostov Oblasts and Krasnodar Kray on 11-13 April. A temporary snow cover formed in most of the aforementioned areas. Its limit ran along a line linking Leningrad, Pskov, Gomel, Orel, Denpropetrovsk, Rostov, and Volgograd.

Winter wheat and barley resumed vegetation in Moldavia, the right bank region of the Ukraine, Stavropol, and Krasnodar Krays, and the autonomous republics of the North Caucasus. Winter crops in the remaining part of the USSR's European territory were in a state of dormancy. The depth of the snow cover in fields sown to winter crops was mainly 5-35 cm. The minimum soil temperature at winter grain crop tillering node depth remained between zero and minus 5 degrees. By the end of the 10-day period the border of the area where clover and alfalfa vegetation had resumed ran along a line linking Rovno, Poltava, Donetsk, Rostov, and Elista. Meadow grasses started vegetating in southern regions of Belorussia. Bud swelling on apple, pear, cherry, mazzard cherry, apricot, and peach trees, and sap movement on grape vines began to the south of a line linking Uzhgorod and Stavropol.

Maximum air temperature in the Transcaucasian republics rose to 19-26 degrees. There was precipitation everywhere. Precipitation levels were 20-65 mm in Western Georgia and Armenia, and 5-15 mm in the remaining regions.

The weather became warmer in most regions of Siberia and Kazakhstan in the last few days. Precipitation levels were not too high (up to 10 mm). The highest precipitation level was in Kemerovo Oblast, parts of Novosibirsk Oblast and Altay Kray, and in the southern parts of Chimkent, Dzhambul, Alma-Ata, and Taldy-Kurgan Oblasts. Winter grain crops and grassses in most of Siberia and Northern Kazakhstan were under snow cover, whose depth stood at 10-30 cm. The minimum soil temperature at the depth of winter crop tillering nodes fluctuated between 5 and 12 degrees below zero.

Snow has mainly disappeared from the fields in the far eastern region. Precipitation level was 5-15 mm. Grass vegetation began in the Maritime Kray.

Temperatures rose considerably in the Central Asian republics in the last few days. Maximum air temperatures reached 25 degrees. Precipitation over a large part of the territory was 15-40 mm, reaching 50-120 mm in parts of Tajikistan, Surkhan-Darya, Kashka-Darya, and Samarkand Oblasts, and western Kirghizia. Winter wheat and barley stalks began to grow, and grasses grew for most of the 10-day period. Alfalfa flower clusters started forming in the extreme south of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (with plant height at 50-60 cm). Alfalfa height over the rest of the territory is 20-40 cm. It is small only in Kirghizia. Cotton sowing is under way mainly in the southern regions.

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

TASS ANNOUNCES LAUNCHING OF COSMOS-1837 23 APR

LD230620 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0609 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (TASS) -- Another artificial earth satellite, Cosmos-1837, was launched in the Soviet Union on Wednesday for continuing space research.

The satellite has been placed in orbit with the following parameters:

Initial period of revolution, 88.7 minutes;
apogee, 255 km;
perigee, 198 km;
orbital inclination, 82 degrees.

The equipment on the satellite is working normally.

TASS NOTES DOCKING OF PROGRESS-29 WITH ORBITER

LD231933 Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- The Progress-29 freight spaceship and the Mir manned orbital station were docked at 21:05 Moscow time on April 23, 1987.

In this way a sophisticated research complex of four spacecraft integrated into a single whole has been built through successive dockings for the first time in the world. It includes the base station, an astrophysical module, a manned spaceship and an automatic freighter.

The search, rendezvous, tethering and docking were controlled by on-board automataic systems and monitored by mission control and also by cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin.

Progress-29 was docked to the complex on the side of the Kvant module. It brought to the station fuel for the engines, food, water, equipment and mail.

According to telemetric information and crew reports, the onboard systems of the Mir manned complex are operating normally and Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin are well and in good health.

SWEDEN REGISTERS SIGNALS FROM EXPLOSIONS

AU231234 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Hagfors, Sweden, April 23 (AFP) -- The Swedish military seismological observatory at Hagfors Thursday morning registered signals from two presumed nuclear explosions west of the Ural mountains in the Soviet Union.

According to the observatory the two underground blasts, five minutes apart, reached 4.5 on the Richter scale, and were interpreted as weak explosions in hard rock.

The Soviet Union earlier this week acknowledged it had been using underground nuclear blasts for oil exploration, including two explosions in the Perm region of the Urals last Sunday.

A report Tuesday in the daily SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA said the explosions, with a power of less than 20 kilotonnes, created a system of crevasses which linked several small pockets of oil allowing easier extraction.

The paper quoted the chief engineer of the Permneft company, M.N. Kobiakov, as saying the technique was a world first, and that "the explosions have not affected the ecology of the region."

JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY RESULTS TO BE PRINTED

LD231726 Moscow TASS in English 1656 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Tallinn April 23 TASS -- Mosses and lichens explored by biologists in Estonia confirmed that the air over this Soviet Baltic republic is clean. They are the living indicators of the environmental pollution. They possess, in part, a capability to accumulate and preserve, without absorbing, lead, cadmium and mercury. By recording the content of metals in them, one can re-create a true picture of the state of the entire ecological system.

By the way, following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station last April, Estonian scientists employed their method to certify that there were not any phenomena in Estonia hazardous to people's health.

Soviet and U.S. scientists study mosses and lichens to determine the "health" of forests, meadows and moss concentrations.

They exchange delegations, information and preparations obtained in Estonia and Arizona, hold symposia and publish research papers, Ueri Martin, an Estonian biologist who heads the Soviet part of the research effort, told TASS.

Scientists from the two countries observe the way plants adjust to the consequences of man's mastering of new technologies. The scientist believes that by finding out the early signs of the ecosystem's malaise, it will be possible to defend multitude varieties of plants from many misfortunes.

The results of the joint research efforts were set out in a two-volume collection. It will be edited by Ueri Martin and published in Tallinn late this year.

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT — Contents unchanged

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT — Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include:

- International Affairs
- Inter-African Affairs
- Central Africa
  - Burundi
  - Cameroon
  - Central African Republic
  - Congo
  - Equatorial Guinea
  - Gabon
  - Rwanda
  - Sao Tome & Principe
  - Zaire
- East Africa
  - Djibouti
  - Ethiopia
  - Kenya
  - Somalia
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda
- Indian Ocean
  - Comoros
  - Madagascar
  - Mauritius
  - Seychelles
- Southern Africa
  - Angola
  - Botswana
  - Lesotho
  - Malawi
  - Mozambique
  - Namibia
  - Republic of South Africa
  - Reunion
  - Swaziland
  - Zambia
  - Zimbabwe
- Western Africa
  - Benin
  - Burkina Faso
  - Cape Verde Islands
  - The Gambia
  - Ghana
  - Guinea
  - Guinea-Bissau
  - Ivory Coast
  - Liberia
  - Mali
  - Niger
  - Nigeria
  - Senegal
  - Sierra Leone
  - Togo

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